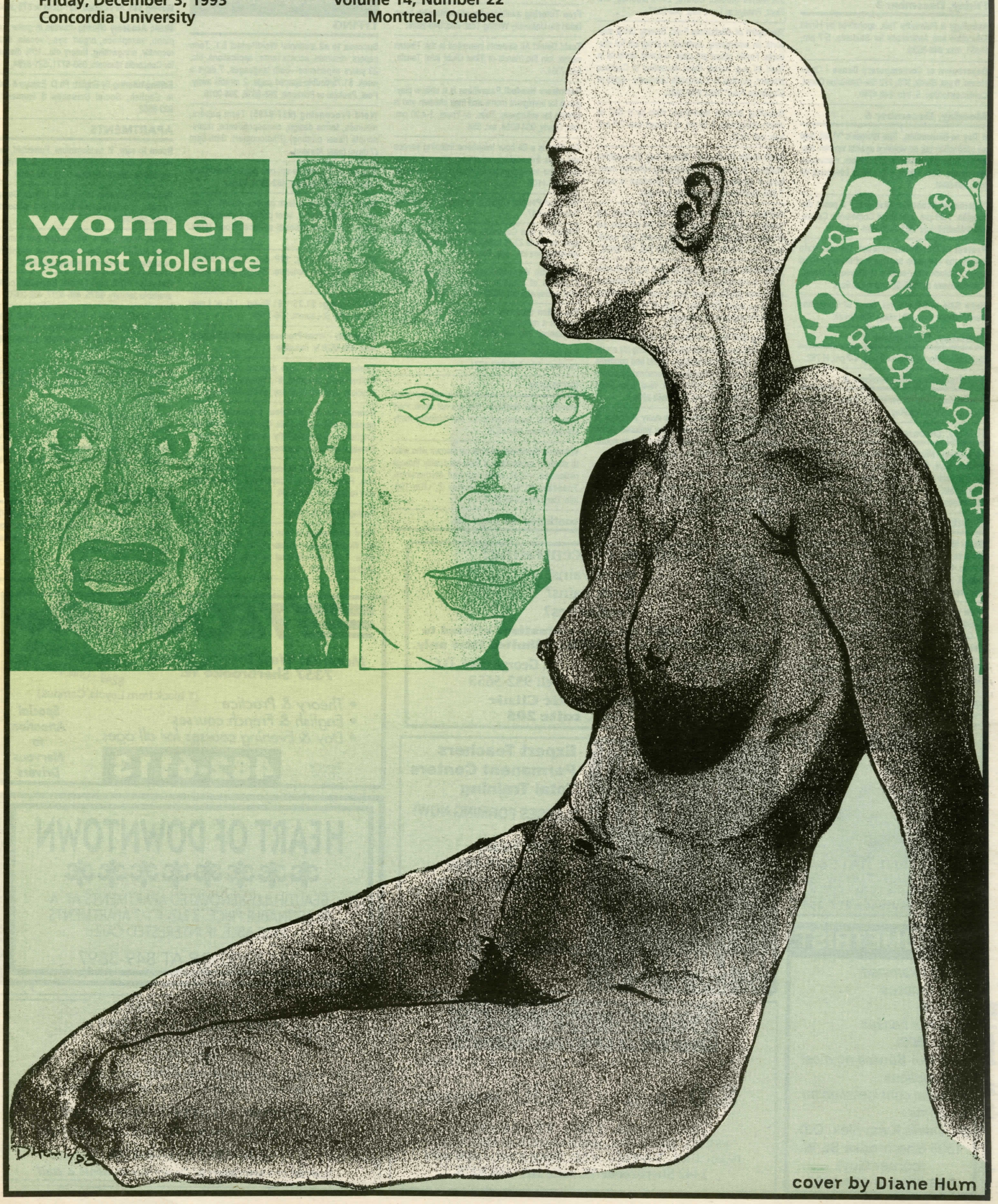
the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper
Friday, December 3, 1993 Volume 14, Number 22
Concordia University Montreal, Quebec

women against violence



cover by Diane Hum

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 5pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 5pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Friday, December 3

Astrology & Palmistry Talk, sponsored by Hindu Education and Awareness for Students. 5-7 pm, H-651, Info: 848-3533.

Department of Contemporary Dance - Open House. 8 pm, Studio 303, 372 Ste-Catherine Ouest. Continues to Dec. 5. Info: 848-4740.

Monday, December 6

A Day to Remember, The Women's 'Y' will host an information fair on violence against women, featuring video presentations, pamphlets, discussion groups etc. 9am - 5pm, 1355 Réné Lévesque W. Info: 866-9941.

"Alternative Economic Strategies," a public discussion. 7:30 pm, Monkland Community Centre, 4410 Westhill. Info: 483-4680, 484-1471.

Protest at MacMillan-Bloedel. Demonstrate against the excessive sentences of those arrested trying to block clear-cutting at Clayoquot Sound. Carpool meets at 2035 St. Laurent at 9am.

Bake Sale to benefit the "Spirit of Christmas Fund."10am - 1pm, AD Lobby, The Atrium.

Tuesday, December 7

Sparklers' Wine & Cheese Party. 4-7 pm, H 762.

Wednesday, December 8

Fundraising Gala to benefit La Maison Ludovic. From 3 pm, 1160 MacKay.

Friday, December 10

Gran fiesta - Nicaragua/Guatemala, an evening of entertainment, food & dancing to benefit Tools for Peace and Le Comité d'appui au peuple du Guatemala. 7 pm, 7378 rue Lajeunesse (à côté Métro Jean-Talon. Info: 982-6611.

GENERAL

Study Skills Assistance: Special Drop-in program for Arts & Science students. First come, first served. Nov. 30, 11 am - 1 pm, Dec. 1, 12-2 pm, Dec. 8, 10 am - 12 pm, 1-3 pm. Counselling and Development, Info: 848-3545.

"How do I Sound" is now accepting submissions. Deadline: Dec. 23. Pick up applications at BR-111 or Cafe X. Info: Amanda, 286-8075 or Aleza, 286-5165.

"How do I Look" is now accepting submissions. Deadline: Dec. 23. Pick up applications at BR-111 or Cafe X. Info: Sandra, 847-1412 or Vali, 270-8972.

Incest Survivors' Group Examine the ways in which incest has affected you and begin the work toward recovery. Group run by professional psychotherapists. Call 848-3545/3555, or drop by H-440 or WC-101.

Concordia Queer Collective weekly meetings: Fridays at 5:30 pm. Learn the latest news and activities at CQC. Womyn and men are welcome to join us for a chat over coffee, tea and snacks. 2020 Mackay, P-102. Info: 848-7414.

Attention Native Students! Regular bi-weekly meetings of First Nations - Concordia are held at the Native Student Centre, 2110 MacKay, 3rd Floor, Fridays at 1 pm. Info: 848-7327.

The Spirit of Christmas Fund Raising Drive supports an emergency assistance program for students. Funds raised are used to assist students in need all year round. Send donations to Campus Ministry, payable to "Concordia University - Spirit of Christmas Fund." Info: 848-3585.

Debating Society meetings: drop by H-520 on Wednesdays from 7-10 pm, or Fridays from 2-5 pm. Info: 848-7412.

Multi-Faith Dialogue - Brown bag discussions designed to promote understanding between members of different religious faiths. Mondays at noon, T-305 (the Graduate Students' Lounge).

Services for Disabled Students: Volunteers are needed to help us deliver many of the services our students use, such as readers, tutors, and assistants. Info: H-580, 848-3525, or AD 130, 848-3536.

Ham Radio meetings: personal two-way radio,television, computers, radio BBS, satellites, shortwave, electronic projects,emergency communications. Meetings every Tuesday, 7 pm, in H-644-1. Info: 848-7474 and leave a message.

Coming Out Support Group In response to the many calls from students who are looking for a safe place to express their feelings, needs and concerns about their sexual orientation, sponsored by cQc & Peer Helpers. Tues, 7 pm. Men: Wed 7 pm, 2130 Bishop, Rm 02. Info: 848-7414, 848-2859.

Concordia Irish Society meets every Thursday at 8 pm. Come for coffee and enjoy yourself. Office also open through the week during certain hours. 2020 MacKay, Rm 103. Info: 848-7411.

Hola Amigos y Amigas! All Latin American students interested in becoming members of the Latin American Students' Association, contact Roberto at 333-1947. Gracias.

Condoms are now available in 2 vending machines at SGW, Tim Horton's and Hall Building 4th Floor. The condoms are approved by Health Services.

The Sociology and Anthropology Students Association needs students to help organize events. Info: Chuck Walsh, 522-6692.

Montreal Alliance of Aspiring Midwives (MAAM) welcomes enthusiastic people for group study and political action. Info: Liz, 933-1631.

The Economics Students' Association is looking for new members, Drop by our office (GM 301-36) or phone 848-7485.

Free Tutoring available for students who have failed the University Writing Test. Info: 848-2326.

Tashi Delek! All students interested in the Tibetan cause, join the friends of Tibet Club! Info: Tenzin, 646-7331.

Volunteers Needed! Parenthèse is a unique playgroup for immigrant moms and their children and is looking for volunteers. Tues. or Thurs. 1-4:30 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

Tel-Aide is a 24-hour telephone listening service and crisis line seeking volunteers who are empathetic and non-judgemental. Training is provided. Info: 935-1105.

Hey Cool People! CRSG is looking for volunteers. Drop by H-647.

"Glitch," a new Concordia student film/video program on Cable 23, is looking for submissions for its upcoming season. Info: 281-7942.

Concordia Association for Undergraduate Students of English (CAUSE) meets every Wednesday at 5 pm, 2020 MacKay, P-103.

The Indian Students' Association invites you to become a member. Trips and other social events are planned. Info: 848-3533.

The Pakistan Students' Association is looking for members. Info: Adil, 287-1774.

WOMEN

Non-Custodial Mothers - You are not alone. Part-time moms, support group for non-custodial mothers. Info: Heidi, 844-8578.

Women's Spirituality Circle for women who want to share in exploration of their spirituality through reflection, ritual, readings and discussions, Tuesdays 11:30 - 1:00, Annex Z, Rm 105. Info: Daryl Ross 848-3585.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia students (CUSA), 25¢ per word for other students and business ads. Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 5pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Come to room H-649 in the Hall building and fill out one of our painless forms. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by payment, or they will not run. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

Success to all students! WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, résumés, access forms, applications, etc. 23 years experience—both languages, 7 days a week. $1.75/double-spaced page. 2 streets away, Peel. Paulette or Roxanne, 288-9638, 288-0016.

Word Processing (937-8495) Term papers, résumés, forms design, correspondence, manuscripts (laser printing) (Photocopier). 9am-6pm (7 days) (near Atwater).

Typing $1.25 double-spaced page. Downtown/Loyola. Pick-up/delivery. 482-2816. Walter.

Word Processing of term papers, reports, theses etc. Word-Perfect 5.1, laser printer, 8 years experience. Fast, professional service. Good rates. Brigitte, 282-0301.

Word Processing, WP 5.1, Laserprinting, Spellcheck. Fast, Accurate. 7 Days. Reasonable. Lisa, 481-2587.

WP / Typing: $1.25 - $1.65/pg., LQ or Laser printer, Ville St-Laurent. 336-7142

MacIntosh - Word-Processing, reasonable rates. Mike 488-4628 lv. message.

Typing. Thesis, term papers, essays, etc. Professionally prepared, $1.15/page. Free delivery & pickup. Call 389-2800 day, or 381-5469 night!

Downtown—St. Mathieu, professional word processor with writing skills. Can help you with your English & professionally format your papers. Excellent service & references. 933-8945.

Professional Word Processing and resumé service. Fast, accurate, 7 days/week. Term Papers, very reasonable. 485-4780.

Typing Tom 738-1171

Word Processing of term papers, reports, theses etc. Word-Perfect 5.1. Laser printer. 8 years experience. Fast, professional service. Good rates. Brigitte: 282-0301.

Fellow student, skilled, adept & prolific in English will professionally type essays, edit them, give them a little *je ne sais quoi*, empowering them with the ability to reap top-notch grades! Neal: 669-5475.

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SERVICES

T-shirts printed. Events—clubs—teams. Best quality & prices. Articotex Printers, 933-9289.

Massage: I have taken courses and am looking for someone else who has for exchange. 935-6258.

Moving $45. All included. 931-0248 or 878-3099.

Music Academy offering courses in guitar, bass, piano, saxophone, organ, syn., vocals, drums, recorder, songwriting, theory etc...10% discounts for Concordia students, 363-6771, 621-8194.

Editing/tutoring by English Ph.D. Essays & theses in English, Social Sciences & Humanities. 933-8652.

APARTMENTS

Room to rent, in condominium. Furnished, facing metro, 5 minutes to Concordia. $325/month, negotiable. 288-0016. After 6 pm, 769-2858.

Unfurnished room to let near Loyola Campus. Female, non-smoker preferred.Very reasonable. Linda, 486-0834.

Sublet downtown 1 1/2, heated and furnished. Near McGill and Concordia. One month free. Available December or January. 843-2498.

Beautiful 4 1/2 near Loyola. Equipped, parking, available January. $375. 486-4077, 462-9370.

Airy, bright upper 5 1/2. Heated. Near Loyola. Huge kitchen with washer/dryer outlets, wood floors, 2 balconies. immediate sublet. $650. 488-7180.

Roommate Wanted - Large 5 1/2, bright, wood floors. $290/month (heated). Mile-End area. 274-4988.

A 6 1/2 to share beside Lionel G. Metro, $215 + utils. M or F. Call 938-1511.

Nice 4 1/2, Metro Lionel-Groulx, sublet Jan. 1 - June 30. Equipped or not, $420 (nego.). Donald, 1-258-2655.

FOR SALE

Need a computer? IBM compatibles. 386DX-40 complete system only $1130. Call now for information on 486 systems, modems and printers - 482-1774 or fax 482-3248.

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1102 de Maisonneuve W. (next to Peel Pub)
844-3997 or 844-3248
Special consideration to Concordia students & staff

Concordia union protests pay freeze

by Ingrid Hein

photo by Ingrid Hein

Concordia support staff protesting downtown last Wednesday

Last Wednesday, 150 members of Concordia's support staff union demonstrated to protest the university's proposal to freeze their wages shouting "We will fight tooth and nail, we will keep our salary scale."

In a meeting the previous day, the union held a General Assembly to review proposals set out by the university. CUSSU members rejected the proposal unamimously.

Union president Danièle Berthiaume said there was a salary scale satisfactory to the union set in 1990, but the university is disregarding it. "Workers in our union are already affected by Bill 102," he said.

Bill 102 legislated a one per cent pay cut for all Quebec public service workers including university employees. Berthiaume added that, "This proposal means additionally that 70 per cent of union members will have no chance of advancement."

Since 1990, Support Staff have been on a salary scale set out under the J.E.P. (Job Evaluation Plan.) There is a minimum, medium and maximum salary according to seniority. Each job is classified in a grading system of one to twenty for all support staff jobs in the university.

Someone who receives a grade of 7 will start with a wage of $13.54 hourly, and that wage can increase to medium-range $16.11 an hour and eventually a maximum of $18.69 an hour. The university has proposed that the maximum become the medium. And $16.11 would become the maximum wage for a job graded at 7.

However, 70 per cent of CUSSU workers are already at the mid-range, and will have no chance of wage increase.

Berthiaume said the cut-backs will also directly affect services for students, "For example, computer services are no longer available Sundays."

Union member André Legault said that a mail service employee quit a month and a half ago and has not been replaced.

Union member Ralph Carter in computer services agrees, "Reducing support staff will mean reduced services."

Students are paying 18 per cent more this year for Student Services, but the wage freeze means none of that money will go to CUSSU employees.

CUSAEU member Michelle Tracy also marched in the demonstration to show her support for CUSSU She said the library staff were also supporting CUSSU's objectives.

Human resources negotiator Susan K. O'Reilly would not comment because negotiations are still underway. Director of Human Resouces Ken Whittingham explained saying that negotiations cannot be made through the press. "They are still in negotiations, and at this point refused to discuss the salary issue."

CUSSU members plan to continue protesting if they don't reach an acceptable agreement. The negotiating table re-opens Dec. 6.

New program aimed at stopping violent children

by Jennifer Ditchburn

A young man in high school finds out from his pals that his girlfriend has been making eyes at another guy. His friends say he should teach her a lesson. What would you do?

Sixteen hundred school-age children from 225 francophone schools in Québec were asked that question this year, and while most said time and talk were the best remedies for a broken heart, other responses were disturbing.

"I think that it would be a relief and it feels good to hit. She did him wrong and if I was him I would let it out," said one respondent.

Just last year a high school student set fire to his girlfriend in an incident similar to the above scenario. But a group of Québec teachers wants to prevent such violence by changing young people's attitudes.

Jacques Brodeur of the Conseil Syndical de la Région de Québec, a teacher, helped collect responses on four principal problems: violence on television, violence in couples, racially-motivated harassment and violence in sports.

"The feeling that women are inferior is evident from a young age," Brodeur said at a press conference Wednesday. "We have to immunize children to cure them of this attitude. We have to help youth express their feelings and evolve."

The teachers, in collaboration with the Foundation for the Victims of Dec. 6, have produced a video using four scenarios, which they hope can be used in classrooms across the province and eventually across the country.

The aim is for children and young adults to freely discuss the issues presented in the video. The teachers hope the kids with unhealthy attitudes will be influenced by their peers in the course of the discussion.

Diane Savard, a teacher and also president of Pacijou, an organization which promotes non-violent toys, is disappointed with the approach Québec school boards have taken on the issue of violence so far. She says responses like installing cameras in grade schools are only band-aid solutions.

"Unfortunately it takes a violent act to make people react," said Savard. "Our solution is longer than just putting cameras in schools, but we feel it will be more effective in the end."

Concordia woman assaulted

A 35-year-old woman who has been receiving anonymous harassing letters and messages suffered a jaw injury yesterday morning when someone attacked her in a third-floor Loyola Administration Building washroom.

The Concordia secretary did not see the assailant. She was found unconscious and taken to the Montreal General Hospital, but was later released.

The victim had alerted Concordia security four weeks ago about a threatening letter she had received, said Ken Whittingham, Concordia public relations director. One week later, security informed MUC Police.

Constable Serge St. Laurent said police had no suspects in the case, but they are investigating whether there is a connection between the letter and yesterday's incident. St. Laurent said police were informed about a harassing letter Nov. 17 but would not say how that was followed up.

Whittingham said the university followed proper procedure when the woman began receiving the threats. The vice-rector services office will be issuing a letter today "reminding all members of the Concordia community that should they have any concern about their personal health or safety, to notify security right away," Whittingham added.

Concordia Security Director Michel Bujold said he was not prepared to make any statements about the incident.

—Eugenia Xenos

Concordia briefs

Holiday help for students

The Campus Ministry Spirit of Christmas Fund provides food vouchers to hungry students all year. The campaign to raise money for the fund is on right now.

The Great Concordia Bake Sale takes place Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Administration building at Loyola.

The Concordia Orchestra Christmas Concert is Dec. 17, 8 p.m., at the Concert Hall at Loyola. The concert is free but donations will be accepted. Sherman Friedland will conduct.

Both of these events will raise money to help students who are short of food. Donations over ten bucks are tax deductible. Hey, if you have enough money to be thinking about tax deductions, you should help out the fund.

Call Pierre Côté at 848-3586 for more information.

Misinformation

In the midst of all the controversy about the Red Cross blood drive, some semi-literate comedian has been putting flyers in newspaper boxes around Concordia.

The flyers are a clever attempt by someone in favour of the Red Cross Blood Drive and opposed to CQC and the HIV/AIDS Committee's attempts to change the CRC's questionnaire. The flyers are decorated with a cross inside a swastika. They suggest that everyone has the "right to be infected with AIDS" (claiming it's not a "homosexual's disease") and call for a boycott of the Red Cross.

The "literature" was probably distributed by the same genius who vandalized Red Cross posters on campus this weekend.

(Hint to those attempting misinformation campaigns in the future: ask an adult to check your grammar before you go to the copy shop.)

Ethics 446

Even though Concordia's journalism school has its own "Community News Department" in the Concordian, it seems some J-school students can't resist lying to publicists and PR people by claiming they're from *the Link*.

We're sure instructors aren't telling their students to tell a "little white lie"—after all, that would be unethical.

—Mark Brooker

CUSA negotiates loan

The CUSA board of directors passed a motion approving terms of their loan at last night's meeting. The $300,000 loan from the Bank of Nova Scotia is for one year at prime plus1 1/2% interest annually but the board will negotiate for an interest rate of prime plus1%. The board will also attempt to re-negotiate for the fixed rate option for any time the loan remains in effect, rather than the September 30, 1994 deadline proposed by the bank.

Shannah Segal was appointed the assistant vice-president information, at a salary of $7,507. Three judiccial board appointees were also approved during the hour-long meeting.

—Danny Chan

CARLOS & PEPE'S

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California style Mexican food
1429 PEEL (above St-Catherine)

CUBE *graphique*

THE OTHER END
THE VOICE ON listening to victims of violence

Two weeks ago, a Statistics Canada report revealed alarming figures on violence against women. Almost one-half of all Canadian women surveyed had experienced at least one incident of violence since the age of sixteen. Of those, almost one-half reported that the violence was committed by men known to them and one-quarter reported violence by strangers.

The survey, which took place from February to June of this year, was not only the first of its kind for Statistics Canada, but also the first national survey anywhere dealing with violence against women.

by Bindu Mathur

Given the sensitive nature of the survey, Statistics Canada took special care and consideration in selecting and training the approximately 40 interviewers to work on the project.

"One of the qualities that we selected our interviewers on was their strength," says Karen Rodgers, a senior analyst in the development of the survey.

Rodgers says reports in the media of interviewers suffering breakdowns or quitting because of emotional stress from dealing with victims of violence are false. She admits that the five-month survey was challenging for the interviewers, but says they coped very well. Some interviewers did quit the survey, but it was because they got permanent jobs or were unable to work the long hours. The shifts ran from noon to 11 p.m. in order to cover all of Canada's time zones.

Only women were considered to work on the survey and all had a special awareness and sensitivity of the issue. Statistics Canada consulted womens' groups, victims and survivors, and various government agencies to develop the approach for the survey.

Dealing with emotional stress

Statistics Canada also provided mechanisms for the interviewers to deal with the emotional stress involved with this type of survey, including a weekly 'debriefing' session with a psychologist.

Rodgers says the interviewers also supported and shared their experiences with each other during the survey.

Although individual calls deeply affected them, it was the scope of the violence against women in Canada that had the greatest impact on the interviewers, Rodgers adds.

"One woman told me that she was amazed that no matter where she was calling in the country, there was some incidence of violence," says Rodgers.

The phone numbers were selected randomly by computer and the survey interviewed 12,300 women over the age of 18 in all regions of the country, except the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Montreal crisis line workers

The work for these interviewers is now finished. But for the staff and volunteers of the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, dealing with victims of violence on the telephone is a 24-hour job.

The centre runs a 24-hour crisis line providing counselling and information to victims of any form of harassment or abuse.

The crisis line handles about 445 calls each week. The centre estimates that 80 per cent of callers are women and 20 per cent men.

Deby Trent, co-ordinator of the centre, says the work is difficult, but it does have its rewards.

"It's hard work because there aren't always answers or solutions and it's a problem that doesn't seem to change. But at least I feel like I'm helping someone," says Trent, who also finds the intimacy of the telephone conducive to helping people.

The centre's approach is that of 'active listening'—volunteers do not give advice or inject their own beliefs and biases.

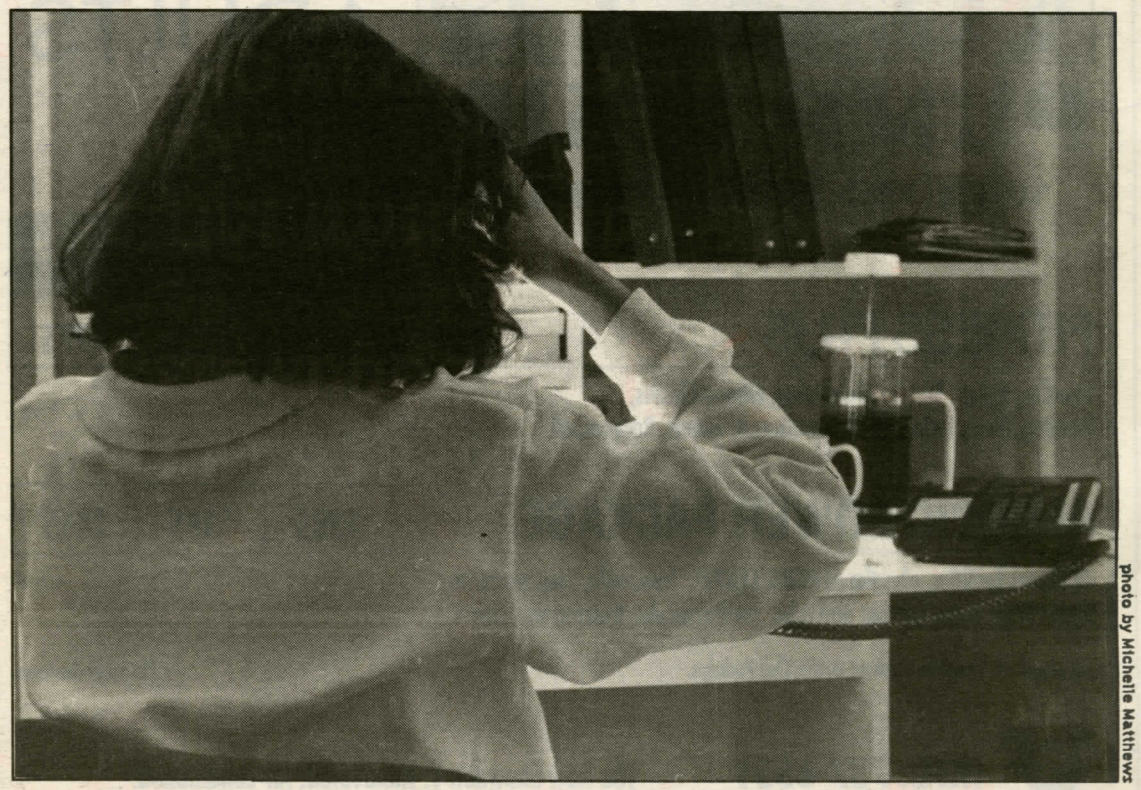

photo by Michelle Matthews

On any given shift, the volunteer has a back-up system comprised of another volunteer and a staff member, who are on-call to help the volunteer handle a certain call or deal with a particularly upsetting call. The support system is also there if the volunteer just needs to talk.

Nancy, who did not want to give her last name, has volunteered on the crisis line for four years. For Nancy, the results of the Statistics Canada survey come as no shock.

"It doesn't surprise me. It surprises me more that people don't realize it's a problem. But I find that people are gradually becoming more aware," she says.

Helping heal scars

Nancy first became aware of the centre from a newspaper article. She decided to volunteer because she felt it was important to help those who suffer abuse or have emotional scars from past abuse.

She says when she first started, certain calls would stay with her longer, but now she has come to realize that there are limits to what she can do.

"We're there to listen and reflect back on the caller what they're saying and experiencing," she says.

Nancy works the midnight shift which lasts until 8:30 the next morning. She says many of the callers who call at this time are people who can't sleep or are waking from nightmares because of experiences of abuse.

The crisis line also receives calls from people who would like information and referrals for themselves or someone they know who is the victim of abuse or harassment.

Nancy doesn't find the work all that stressful, but admits that "some calls can be really disturbing. But others you feel you can be there for someone." She says she will continue to volunteer as long as she can find the time.

Volunteers at the centre attend two weekend training sessions, totalling about 30 hours. These sessions give volunteers information about problems they may encounter and provide the skills they need to work on the line.

From her experience, Nancy sees a good volunteer as "someone that's not judgmental, (someone) accepting and able to make people feel comfortable. Basically compassionate and able to distance yourself while trying to be there as much as you can," she says.

The Montreal Sexual Assault Centre 24-Hour Crisis Line: 934-4504.

Women interested in volunteering at the centre can contact Joanna Broadhurst at 934-0354.

Violence against women in Canada

A random sample of 12,300 women in Canada revealed alarming figures on incidences of physical or sexual violence in their lives:

- **Half of the women experienced sexual or physical violence at least once since age 16.**
- **One woman in 10 experienced violence in the year prior to the survey.**
- **Women were more likely to be assaulted by men they knew (45%) than by a stranger (23%).**
- **Of the women surveyed who had been or are married, 29% said they had experienced violence from their partner.**
- **Children witnessed violence in four of 10 households in which it took place.**
- **Six women out of 10 fear walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. Three-quarters worry while using public transportation after dark and four of 10 worry while home alone in the evening.**

—from the 1993 Statistics Canada Violence Against Women Survey. Findings are considered accurate to within one percentage point, 19 times in 20.

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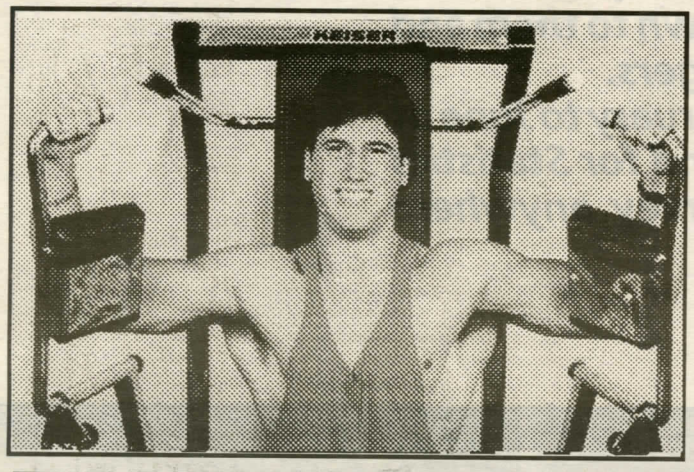

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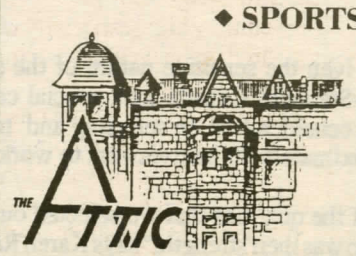

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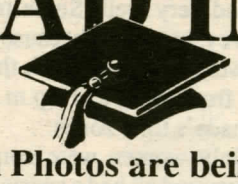

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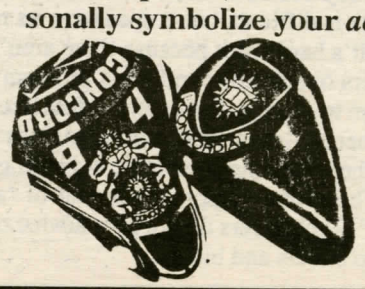

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Screen the virus not the "risk group"

I agree there should be a boycott, in view of the fact the Red Cross questionnaire is blatantly discriminatory. Students need to exercise control over policies and practices on campus which involve them directly. How long does it take the Red Cross to type up a new questionnaire? Also I feel that the Red Cross should be screening the HIV virus not so-called 'high risk' groups. Let's drop the myths and stop trying to blame and stigmatize various groups. This does not serve our university well, and perpetauates marginalization, fear and mis-information about the nature of HIV. This is not a group -specific disease, anyone may contract HIV if exposed to it. The Red Cross should get its act together before we support it.

P.Duffy

HIV/AIDS committee "nitpicking"

I am writing this letter in response to your Tuesday, November 30th issue and the cover article concerning proposed changes to the Red Cross questionaire.

The Con-U. HIV/AIDS Committee not only seems to be engaging in 'nit-picking', but is also promoting the denial of some very basic facts. This letter is not intended to inflame the sentiments of our university's prominent vocal minorities but no doubt will if it manages to get past the ultra-leftist editorial staff.

First of all question 12 happens to contain some fact. Although the homosexual community may not like it, theirs has a higher incidence of HIV/AIDS infection than that of the heterosexual community. These statistics will obviously not remain static, but one ought to realize that the questionaire is dealing with the present not the future. It follows that homosexuals, for the present, are more likely to have tainted blood. I no doubt come off sounding homophobic. That is not my intention. I neither condone nor condemn homosexuality. It exists—therefore I accept it. It is a non-issue.

It may well be true that to recieve one unit of blood in one transfusion is enough to become infected with HIV, but it follows logically that to undergo many treatments or transfusions of donor blood will expose one more often to that risk and hence the likelihood of infection rises.

In regards to question 13, the discrimination argument stands on very shaky ground. There do exist countries where the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the general population is frighteningly high, especially when compared to the incidence of infection in this country.

It follows logically from this fact that an average person coming from such a country will have had more opportunity to have been exposed to the virus in question than an average person from a country where the incidence of HIV/AIDS is lower. It is not a matter of discrimination, it is a matter of common sense and mathematics. Question 14 also addresses this fact.

The Committee's argument that the terms of "risky" behaviour are deserving of qualification may hold some water. However the claims of discrimination on the part of the Red Cross are weak and the height of folly. Pious platitudes and hyperbole of this sort I have come to expect from certain players at our "progressive" school and I hold little faith in their self-righteous claims.

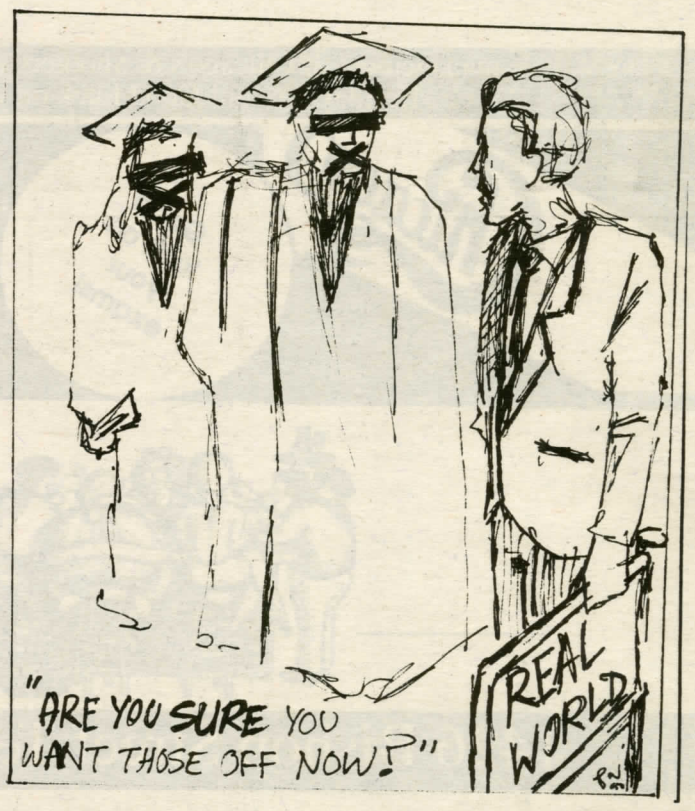
I sign as:

"Camillus"—defender not of the 'right' but of common sense and the silent majority.

I.W. Matthews
Political Science and History

Semantic arguments: extremely silly

The rhetoric and confusion surrounding the Canadian Red Cross issue has become insupportable. It is time to clear the air around this highly charged issue. CUSA will be holding a referendum to ask members whether or not they wish to sponsor blood drives. If held on its own a referendum would cost approximately $6,000. Given CUSA's current financial situation the referendum will be held concurrently with the upcoming Annual General Elections. The only significant cost associated with the Red Cross referendum will be the printing of the ballots. Ballot printing will cost not more than a few hundred dollars, thus the financial hysteria in response to the referendum seems unreasonable.



I am extremely tired of the rather silly semantic argument about boycotts versus ceasing sponsorship. If CUSA ceases sponsoring blood drives, the end result is a *de facto* boycott of the CRC by the largest student association on campus. Whether proponents of this action admit it or not, ceasing sponsorship could have a deleterious effect on the blood supply. The idea behind such an action is to set a precedent that others will follow and force the CRC to change its questionnaire.

Although the questionnaire is flawed in many respects, I cannot support using the blood supply as a bargaining chip. Nor do I believe that the majority of CUSA members would support such an action. That notwithstanding, I recognize the right of the members to have questions of importance to the association brought to the membership through referendum. In February, the students will have the opportunity to make a reasoned decision, free from the circus-like atmosphere that prevented reasoned debate at the CUSA Board of Directors.

Philip Dalton
CUSA Co-president

Give blood not bias

'Tis the season to be petty and self-absorbed. I am repulsed by the behavior of those involved with the "Concordia Blood-Drive Saga."

I understand and sympathize with the CQC's objections to the Red Cross questionnaire. I must question their pressure tactics, however. Pressuring possible donors into not giving blood is near-sighted and unfair. Lack of blood and blood products threatens the life of innocent by-standers to the controversy-not those who make the questionnaires. Are members of the CQC so certain that they won't need blood? Are they immune to accidents and illness? They'll never require surgery? Everyone who can has a responsibility to give blood whenever they can.

As for the Red Cross, I cannot understand why these questions are asked. Every pint of blood is tested before being passed on, correct? Regardless of the donor's answer? This being the case, there is no reason to ask any of these questions. There are many gays, lesbians, Sub-Saharan Africans and others who belong to 'high-risk groups' that do not have AIDS. Or any other disease. Their blood is just as useful as anyone else's. It is the Red Cross' responsibility to test every pint of blood, not make assumptions that perpetuate prejudice and discrimination. Asking such questions creates a climate where the answers become incriminating and the likelihood of false answers is increased.

Give blood, not bias.

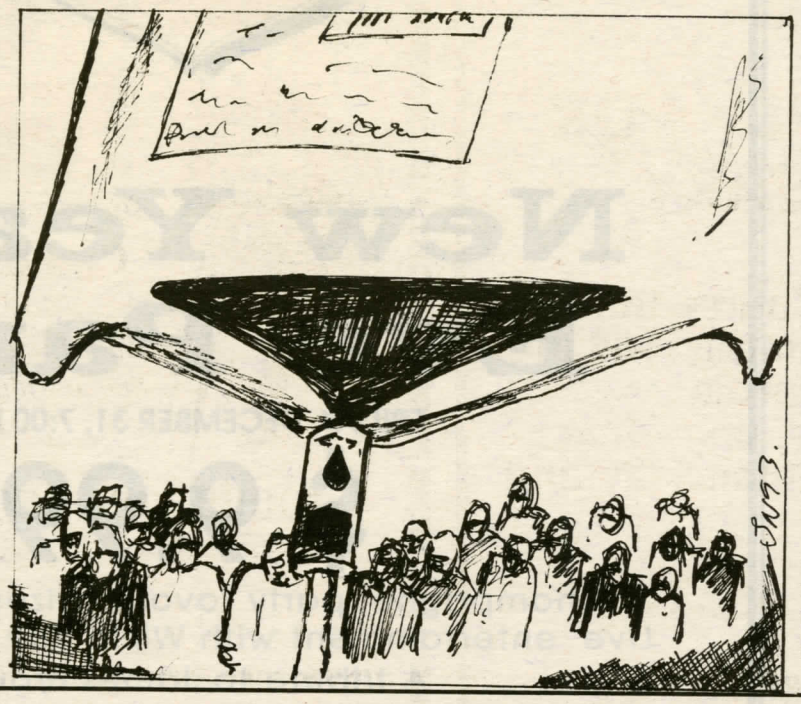
And to all, Merry Christmas

Audrey Christophon
History

Whole-hearted support—no consensus

In reference to your article on the criticism of the Red Cross questionnaire, we would like to point out an error. The Concordia Women's Centre is listed as one of several groups on campus which support "a cease-sponsorship of Red Cross blood drives until the questionnaire is changed." This issue was debated at length by the women who staff the centre, and opinions on supporting the cease-sponsorship were divided. While we whole-sheartedly support other efforts to change the questionnaire, such as pettioning the Red Cross, we did not reach a consensus on supporting the cessation of blood drives on campus.

The Concordia Women's Centre.



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❑ **Yes** ❑ **No**

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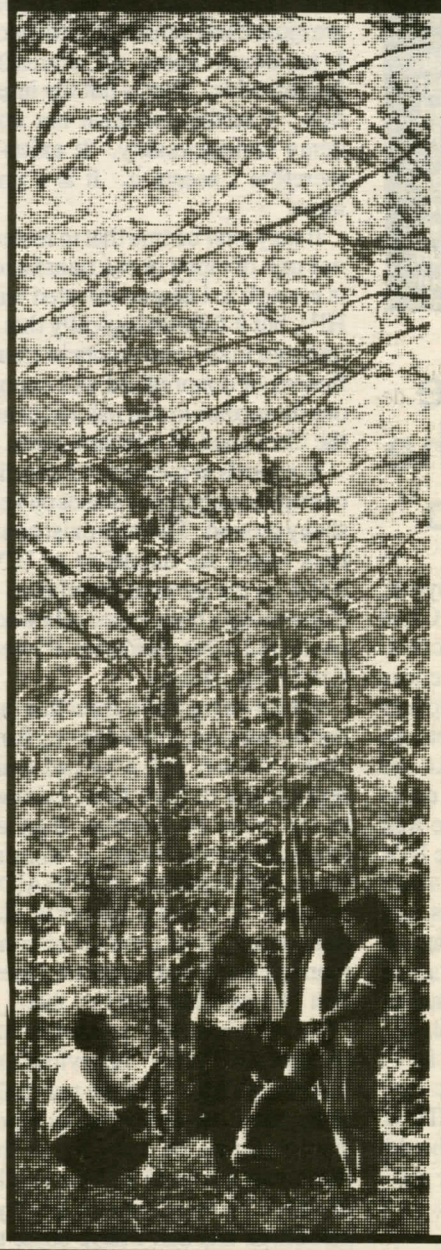

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Shuttle buses; masturbation

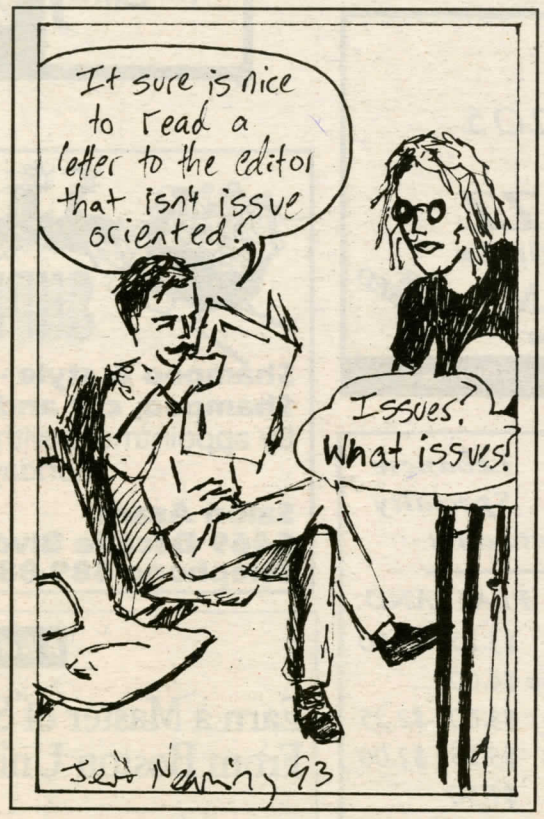
I am curious to find out if *the Link* has any plans to hop on a shuttle bus and come out and cover one of the 14—18 productions the Theatre Department puts on per year, as well as numerous other shows outside of the department that we are involved with. Although some of the pieces are performed inter-departmentally and our budget for publicity is lacking if not non-existent, it would be nice to provide coverage (or reviews?) on some of the year's events and issues that we tackle theatrically. It amazes me that nobody knows about these shows but our own peers. Isn't that like masturbation?

David Allan King

Diehard Lemonhead fan incensed

This letter is in response to the lousy coverage of the recent Lemonheads show. (the Link, Nov. 26). In the past, I have faithfully read the Link's Fringe section, but I was appalled by Ingrid Bejerman and Sophy Kwaja's review of the concert in question. (I do, however, congratulate them on their mention of Magnapop's brilliant set.) Reporters who are unfamiliar with a band's music or background should refrain from writing shitty reviews about them.

As a die-hard Lemonheads fan, I resent the fact that you blatantly refer to their latest effort as mostly "space-filler". Reviewing bands who write such "space-filler" albums may not be your forté.



Perhaps you should stick to music you actually know a thing or two about.

For instance, if you bothered taking the time to familiarize yourselves with the Lemonheads' style, you'd know that they rarely compose songs over three minutes long. They are reknowned for making short records that "barely scratch in at forty minutes worth of material". And how dare you insinuate that the band has only two albums? I regret—or—rejoice to inform you that they have six... count'em: SIX albums to date. Evidently, nobody told you the 'Heads were once a punk band, either. If you had cleaned the wax outta your ears before attending their show, maybe you would've heard several audience members yelling out requests for old tunes, like Hate Your Friends and Rat Velvet.

Furthermore, leave Mr. Dando alone! Just because he's had copious media attention, you don't have to give him more. Yes, there ARE two other band members (I'm surprised you actually noticed), so why did you fail to mention their supreme performance at the Nov. 22 show? You didn't even attempt to cite the "original writer" of Into Your Arms's name. For your information, it's Robyn St. Clare. Obviously, she played a key part in the delivery of the song, otherwise Mr. Dando would not have called her onstage. Don't you think this merited at least, a mention of the woman's name? It appears that you weren't even paying attention to the concert. More care was given to criticizing the band , than to watching the show.

Concerning your incompetent staff, like the article states, this time the shame is definitely NOT about Ray.

P.S. In comparison, Carol McQueens's coverage of the Sarah McLaughlan show was more than adequate. At least this made up for the Link's error of allowing the Lemonheads coverage to go to Bejerman and Khwaja.

Cam Matthews
Fine Arts

Editorial

The tyranny of factions

When Statistics Canada released an extensive survey showing that 50 per cent of Canadian women have experienced violence some brilliant commentators dismissed the results, saying, "Hey there's no way half of the women I know were assaulted."

When a diverse collection of Concordia groups raised concerns about the Red Cross blood screening process, they were dismissed as radical special interest groups.

When Canadian women call for tighter gun control, they are called castrating females.

Our society, it seems, is under attack by a "politically correct" movement which threatens our basic freedoms. And that must mean that radical, fringe special interest groups are conspiring against what makes our nation great.

What a load of shit.

The derision of the "PC Movement" festers from an intolerance of groups other than the alleged status quo and the determination to preserve elitist self-serving rights. It derives from a bunch of reactionary, tunnel-visioned whiners who see only "reverse discrimination," and are blind to the fact that special interest groups are not attacking other group's rights—but reclaiming their own.

This means when one in two women reports being assaulted, women have the right to get angry with men and fight back. *For their own bodies, for God's sake.* And without having to deal with disbelieving men denying the scope of violence or with sympathizing men who absolve themselves of any responsibility for the gross violence against women.

It means when gays and lesbians feel a questionnaire attacks their community, they have the right to demand the discrimination end. Any good toward a particular group, such as blood product recipients, should not happen at the expense of another.

It means when women and other special interest groups join in political action against intolerance and discrimination, their rights to protest should not be withheld from them under the whine that they are troublesome factions.

Political action has proven to be the only way to get real change.

Sadly the group which controls the media, the courts and the police sees any attempt to end discrimination as an attack on their rights.

Off with their heads.

—Mark Brooker and Debbie Hum

Feminist history from what perspective?

Why are white feminist historians continuing to publish works from the perspective and experience of "women?" A professor of Canadian Women's History began her lecture last week by talking about revolutions, where she proceeded to mention only European revolutions and only European women who were active during this period. The problem being, we were not to be talking specifically about European revolutions nor European women.

The professor, herself being European, assumed automatically that a European perspective represented the experiences of all women. This professor appeared unaware that she was supporting and stabilizing a racist institution, which white feminists espouse they want to dismantle (as it is believed where there is racism there is also sexism when coming from a male power structure).

The next point in fact was the drawing of a quick parallel between the abolitionist movement and the suffragist movement, as a large percentage of African American slaves were women fighting and dying for their freedom.

There was no mention of the fact that the suffragist movement was a white, middle class, racist movement. After the so-called emancipation of African American people, white women within the suffragist movement segregated the movement because they were scared that black men would receive the vote before they did. The suffragist movement in Canada and the U.S. was not a solidarity movement as some would lead us to believe.

The book for this course, Canadian Women, a History, illuminates the WWII period as a "women's revolution," across the U.S. and Canada.

This was not a "women's revolution," but a white, middle class women's movement in the private sector. The authors of this book are so blinded by their whiteness, they fail to recognize that in the U.S. alone, three million African American women lost their jobs as a result of white women's movement in the work arena. They fail to recognize that Japanese North American women were not a part of this so-called "women's revolution." Japanese North American women were being detained, during WWII, inside prison war camps, as a result of both Canadian and U.S. governments. These are only a few important examples out of many, which demonstrate the racism inherent within this book.

The excuse that African North American women, First Nations women and women of colour have yet to provide a history is no longer available. Unfortunately, white women like white men continue to dominate academics which provide us with only a footnote or a paragraph written about the history of African North American women, First Nations women and women of colour. White privilege continues to cloud the mind, where even the most liberal attempt to deny personal racism contributes dramatically to a racist proliferation.

Feminist publications by African North American, First Nations women and women of colour are readily available and provide for a much more inclusive understanding than white feminist literature. African North American, First Nations women and women of colour write from the understanding of someone who cannot deny the existence or the effects of racism, therefore providing the reader with a much more objective, rather than subjective knowledge.

Until white feminists acknowledge our inherited privilege in North American society and stop perpetuating a patriarchal approach to historical analysis by deceiving the reader with an invention of a common history and struggle, we will never witness a true liberation for all women, only a continued struggle within the movement.

African North American women, First Nations women and women of colour have exhausted their energies for too long explaining to white feminists how racism within the movement and in North American society has affected their lives.

This not an attempt to speak for anyone, only to take responsibility as a white feminist to educate other white feminists on the effects of racism and how we perpetuate this problem.

Whitney O'Quinn
Political Science

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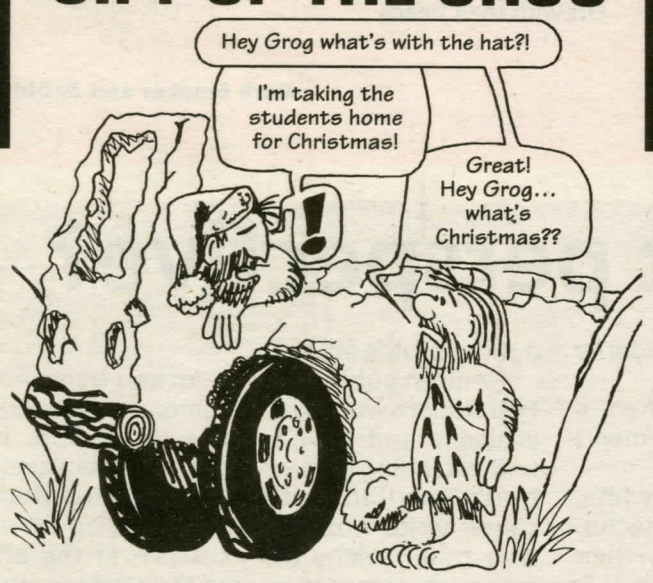

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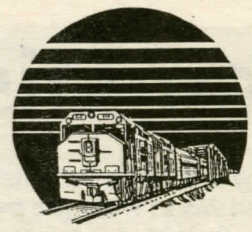
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Room for Goshu wasn't a secret

Allow me to respond to the letter 'Goshu at Concordia' by G. Tewelde (*the Link*, Nov. 23)

I wish to correct Tewelde and the Ethiopians/Eritreans that you represent that I did not book the meeting but the room. The room booking was not made a secret from anyone in the Association. In fact, some of the first people I informed about the meeting (approximately 2 weeks in advance) were Ethiopians and Eritreans. Not a single person in the Association nor from the outside community openly objected or tried to get me to cancel the booking. Instead, Goshu opposers opted to demonstrate peacefully on the day of the meeting. A Goshu meeting organizer was personally informed by me that University Security would be present and that everyone, including Goshu opposers should be allowed in to challenge him.

You mention my failure to take responsible action. Well, if I were irresponsible I would have not 'bothered' myself with trying to reason with Goshu's security to allow the Goshu opposers still present into the meeting. Any failures in your strategies against Goshu should not be blamed on me. It was imperative that my decisions be based on pure reason, not emotionalism, and that the consequences of my decisions be in compliance with University and Security regulations. I found it absolutely necessary to exercise some diplomacy in dealing with the dilemna, especially since both parties argued their position on the grounds of democracy only if it was to their benefit.

If I may also jolt your memory and inform you that after deliberations and interrupting Goshu's speech, the 'overprotective' security men did allow everyone to enter, at which point some of the Goshu opposers then refused to go in. Once everyone was allowed in I had no reason to terminate the meeting. The staged question period and the demands made to me by some members of your group to get Goshu to start his speech over were beyond my control. As you may strive to remember I had only booked the room and not organized the meeting!! I therefore have no regrets with the way the event was handled.

Your allusive remarks to my being Zimbabwean, hence my involvement in facilitating Goshu's meeting are nothing but insinuations starving of fact and intellect, yet copious of sensationalism. Having you and the Ethiopians and Eritreans that you represent standing up for what you believe may be commendable, however doing so by stooping so low as to blaspheme against me and my country is certainly deplorable.

Dorcas Kandawasvika
President, African Students Association

Academic freedom at risk

Last week I had the pleasure of watching a movie about Canadian doctor Norman Bethune. In a gripping scene, Bethune realizes that he had been so preoccupied with fighting fascism around him, he had allowed this same monster to fester within him. On the news later, I unfortunately found this same monster had found it's way into Canada as well.

The issue was academia versus freedom of speech. There was a story on professor Yaqzan at UNB who had expressed his (obviously flawed) opinion on rape and was suspended from theaching. Later, professor Leif was heckled off the podium at McGill while trying to discuss False Memory Syndrome, a phenomenon of great importance to psychologists. My concern here lies not in the relative "truth" of these academic pronouncements, but on the repression they have endured.

Heretics were burned at the stake and more than a few "communists" have suffered at American hands for what they had to say. This should serve to illustrate why freedom of speech is so important: to prevent your opponent from being trampled underfoot for holding an unpopular opinion, whether he/she is right or wrong. The forum created by freedom of speech is one where opinions are openlyt expressed, challenged and or supported, without fear of retribution. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (to which Canada is bound) states that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression." I don't think they meant accepting the freedom to be strung up by the neck at the nearest tree for being unpopular.

If you believe that professors are infallible figures that should be excommunicated for making mistakes, then you place much power of authority where none is due; universities would certainly suffer a shortage of teaching staff.

Remember, if you have freedom of speech but your opponent doesn't, that's not freedom of speech. This simple piece of logic seems exacting for many.

Academia is suffering serious blows in this country when the primitive elements of 'political correctness' disallows the freedom for debate. The onus is on you to provide your opinion and supporting evidence; if you can't deal with that responsibility, tough.

Pascal Soucy

Student remembers Margaret Simpson

To those of us who were fortunate enough to have known Margaret Simpson, her death comes as the final chapter in a tragedy of incredible magnitude, in which this woman's courage will remain an inspiration to all those around her.

Having lost her husband Michael Hogben to the deranged 'justice' of Prof. Fabrikant, her will to go on and fight against her cancer was remarkable to witness.

She had a vision of what education should be, and what could be the potential of an institution such as Concordia. After having taught high school for many years, her first occasion to teach at Concordia occurred less than three weeks after her husband's death (t)here. Many would have fled the site of such a memory. Yet she felt that giving of herself as a teacher would give her a reason to carry on.

Her dedication to her students was such that giving to them of herself seemed even more important to her than conserving her energy to fight off her disease. Her students seemed to recognise that they were privileged to be taught by such a dedicated and impassioned educator. Despite her only being able to lecture for several weeks, she managed to make an indelible impression on those students.

I cannot claim to be a longtime friend of Margaret. However, I can honestly say that I have met few people in the field of education who have been able to inspire my respect for the role of the educator as has she. Her dedication to her principles, and her commitment to furthering the welfare of her students will serve as a model to those educators who knew her. It is a shame that she could not have had a long career as a teacher-educator. Her students and her associates are mourning greatly her passing away.

Daniel McCool
M.A., Ed. Studies

No job too small

by Ita Kendall

I experienced a small, seemingly insignificant example of violence against women a few weeks ago while working on a temporary job. It left me wondering how we'd ever end life-threatening violence against women if we can't deal with relatively innocuous situations.

My experience began each morning when the team of women I was working with would gather around the office meeting table to decide our priorities for the day. And when, each morning, at about the same time every day, one of our male co-workers would walk by the table to get to the washroom beyond it.

As he went past he would flip or play in some way with the hair of one of the women seated at the table.

He never lingered when he touched someone's hair—just did it quickly as he whisked by on his way to the john.

This always annoyed whichever woman he did this too. Sometimes we rearranged our chairs so everyone would be out of his reach until after he'd come and gone.

Once, when I didn't move my chair far enough out of his way, he flipped my braid with his hand as he walked out.

That was the first time for me. I hadn't been at the office long and until then I'd felt that, as a stranger, I was somehow immune.

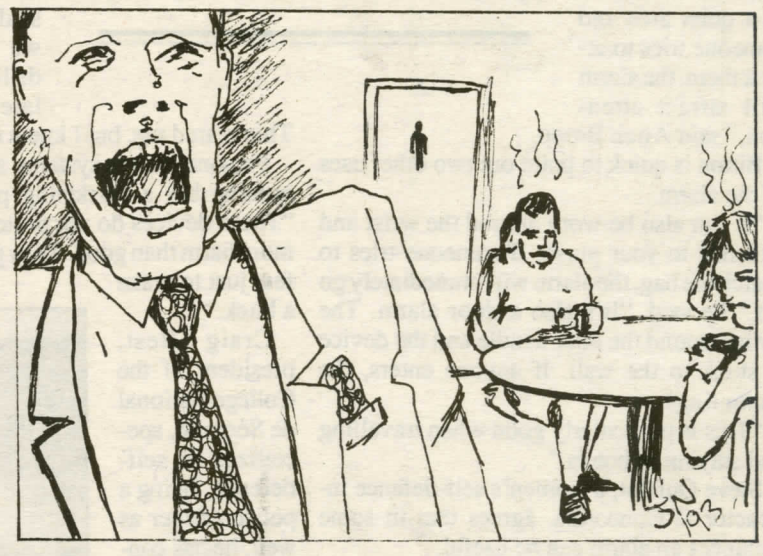
I felt unusually angry when I, too, became one of his.targets.

His hit-and-run style made it impossible to tell him not to touch my hair while he was still close by. And once he was out of the room I was unwilling to chase after him and risk the attention and embarrassment I'd incur by making a fuss. After all, I told myself, all he'd done was flip my braid as he passed.

So why, why did I feel so angry?

Maybe it was because he made me feel like a little girl rather than a colleague.

Or perhaps I sensed he didn't think any of us deserved the same respect he gave our male colleagues. Consciously or unconsciously,.I think he was telling the women in the office we were inferior to him and the other men in the office. He certainly never mussed the hair of our male co-workers.



I also felt powerless because I knew I couldn't report him or challenge him publicly. If I made a fuss about one braid-flipping incident, I probably wouldn't get any more work at that office. I'd be seen as oversensitive, difficult and even a troublemaker.

Assaults and murders are only one end of a continuum of violence against women. The other end is filled with small, seemingly insignificant situations. And as long as those small situations continue to exist it will be difficult to put an end to the assaults and murders.

Personal alarm systems

Safety, or a fast buck?

by Carol McQueen

photo by Carol McQueen

Personal alarm systems and weapons such as pepper sprays are sold to women as products which will ensure their safety. They're meant to be carried at all times. If attacked a woman can press the alarm button and a siren sounds, either scaring the assailant away or alerting passers-by to her predicament.

But these "weapons" only instill a false sense of security, critics charge.

"If you lose it or it breaks, you will be lost. It doesn't hurt to carry an alarm but never put all your faith in it. It is a much better philosophy to learn to rely on yourself," says Jennifer Joyal, a Montreal architect.

Carroll Wilson, a Concordia student, agrees: "Anyone who buys a device should realize that they still have to take major safety precautions. If it gives a false sense of security, it can be very dangerous. It's not the answer to women's safety."

"Anyone who buys a device should realize that they still have to take major safety precautions. If it gives a false sense of security, it can be very dangerous. It's not the answer to women's safety."

—Carroll Wilson, Concordia student

However, the president of Diffusion Quali Pro which markets an alarm device, insists these products are useful.

"Women will be safer if they carry a personal alarm. If they find themselves in a quiet area and someone tries to attack them, the alarm will attract attention," said Arieh Bitton.

"Women will be safer if they carry a personal alarm. If they find themselves in a quiet area and someone tries to attack them, the alarm will attract attention."

—Arieh Bitton, personal alarm company

Bitton is quick to point out two other uses of the alarm.

"It can also be worn around the wrist and attached to your purse. If someone tries to snatch the bag, the alarm will immediately go off," he said. "It's also a door alarm. The string around the door handle and the device is stuck to the wall. If anyone enters, the alarm rings.

"This is particularly good when travelling and staying in hotels."

Steve Quiblat, a women's self-defence instructor at Concordia, agrees that in some instances an alarm can be useful.

"If you're being mugged, an alarm can help. It will deter the thief from running off with your bag," he said.

But his recognition stops there.

"When it comes to protection of self, such a device or gadget may hinder you in defending yourself. It gives a false sense of confidence" said Quiblat. "When someone jumps on you, the first thing you do is go for the gadget. You become dependent on it because you believe in it so much. The gadget could be taken away by the attacker."

Quiblat says women should use their own bodies to protect themselves. By taking a self-defence class, they can learn the necessary skills to fend off an assailant.

"When looking for a self-defence class, women should follow their feelings. If the techniques are too complicated and too flashy, it probably won't be helpful. If they are simple, straightforward and down-to-Earth, then it probably works," he said.

A Concordia graduate student who took Quiblat's self-defence course, explains why it was so effective.

"It taught me quick and easy techniques which were not as complicated as the martial arts. With practice they became instinctive—in a real situation you must act instinctively," she said. "In the course, we would do stress drills which simulated real attacks. This scared me, but I knew it was essential."

Personal alarm systems and weapons are nothing but a marketing ploy, she added. "These devices do not protect you. They do more harm than good. They play on women's fear just to make a buck."

Craig Best, president of the Collège National de Sécurité, specializes in self-defence. Being a police officer as well, he has conducted officer training courses all over North America. Since 1986, Best has been teaching women sexual assault prevention.

"Aggressors are always looking for an easy target. If you harden that target, it won't be targetted," he said.

His motto is KISS—keep it survival simple. He suggests women who are being attacked should scream, strike in an effective fashion and run.

He dismisses personal alarm systems as useless.

"If you are in an isolated area, whether or not you have a buzzer will not be the end of your worries. Car alarms go off all the time without anyone really noticing," he said. "What if it doesn't work? Or if the assailant breaks it or steps on it?"

Best considers weapons to be even more dangerous for women to carry around, especially if they do not know how to use them properly.

"A lot of women carry knives. If they are going to do this, they must know how and be willing to use it. It's a very personal weapon. You have to be very close to the attacker to use it. If a woman uses it as a scare tactic, the attacker could get ahold of it and then use it against her," he explained.

Best also stressed the fact that most women are assaulted by people they know in the privacy of their own home. In Quebec in 1992, 48.6 per cent of assaulted women were attacked by their partner. Another 24.7 per cent were assaulted by an ex-partner. And 23.9 per cent were attacked by someone they did not know.

"Self-defence teaches women how to be patient for the right opportunity to react to aggression. It teaches them how to fend off attacks from all sides, how to get a man off from on top of her and what to do if she is down on the ground," Best said.

He also suggested some preventative measures women can adopt to lessen the chance of assault. They should try to vary their schedules and routes so a potential assailant can't establish a pattern of movement. If their car breaks down, they should be wary of allowing men to assist them directly. Instead, they should speak through the window and ask that a tow truck be called.

As long as violence against women persists, personal alarm systems and weapons will be found on the market, advertised and sold as a means of protection and security. But they are not all they are made out to be.

As Craig Best explains, "Women hide behind these instruments like they were magic wands. They are not."

Four years later

The struggle for gun control

by Jennifer Ditchburn

Last year, Suzanne Laplante-Edward's Nova Scotia garden was featured on the popular French television show, "Desjardins d'aujourd'hui." She and her daughter, Anne-Marie Edward, worked together on the garden, clearing some of the land around their summer home. Laplante-Edward says having the garden featured was a nice tribute to the memory of her daughter, who loved the outdoors.

Anne-Marie and 13 other women were killed four years ago at the École Polytechnique in Montreal.

The military assault weapon used by 26-year-old Marc Lepine, a Mini Ruger-14, has still not been banned in Canada.

• • •

Laplante-Edward used to think about writing to her MP or to TV stations about violence on television, but remained an activist-in-waiting.

"I used to sit in my car on my way to work and think about how I could complain about all the violence I saw, but I never got around to doing anything," said Laplante-Edward. "I was very, very busy being very, very happy."

Following the death of Anne-Marie, Laplante-Edward created the Fondation des victimes du 6 decembre contre la violence and began working with the Coalition for Gun Control and anti-violence movements across the country.

"I couldn't live thinking our daughters were dead and we weren't covering any social terrain," said Laplante-Edward.

According to a September Angus Reid poll on gun control and ownership, three-quarters of Canadians think semi-automatic weapons should be banned and 86 per cent think all weapons should be registered with law enforcement officials.

But most Canadians are like Laplante-Edward before the issue affected her personally: passive supporters of gun control.

Heidi Rathjen admits to not having given much thought to gun control before her fellow engineering classmates were gunned down one cold December evening. A little bit of research into gun control showed her that there was little restraint on gun ownership in Canada.

Uphill battle for gun control

"The whole political process is based on the notion that if you own a gun you're an expert in gun control, and the police and the health care professionals are not," said Rathjen, now executive director of the three-year-old Coalition for Gun Control which was created as a result of the massacre.

It's been a long, and often frustrating fight for Rathjen, who is the only paid member of the Coalition. After the tragedy, Rathjen and classmates at Polytechnique gathered more than half a million signatures in an effort to ban assault weapons. But it wasn't long before the uninitiated students and the newly-formed Canadians for Gun Control (which later became the Coalition), saw what they were up against. According to Rathjen, Canadian gun owners are some of the most aggressive and effective lobbyists in the country.

In 1990, in response to the killings, then Justice Minister Kim Campbell formed a Special Committee on Gun Control to discuss a new bill, C-80. Six of the seven committee members were gun owners, and the families of the Polytechnique victims were at first excluded from the meetings. Laplante-Edward remembers her disbelief at not being able to testify.

1990 committee on gun control

"They told us not to come because they didn't want us to have to go through the trauma again, when all along it was us who had asked to appear," said Laplante-Edward.

Bill C-80 eventually died but it was replaced by a somewhat stronger bill in the spring of 1991, Bill C-17. The bill called for a screening period of at least 28 days for candidates for the Firearm Acquisition Certificate. It placed limitations on gun magazine capacities and defined safe storage of firearms.

By this time, the Coalition had gained some media attention and the support of some members of parliament. The Coalition staged postcard campaigns, cross-country informational tours and lobbying in Ottawa simultaneously with hearings on the new legislation.

However, Rathjen's efforts were matched by heavy action by gun owners. In October 1991 they took out a full-page ad in the Globe and Mail to discredit Bill C-17 and the Coalition.

"They called us castrating females who were trying to take their guns away," said Rathjen. "They asked things like 'Why are women calling for gun control when they kill hundreds of unborn babies a year.'"

In December 1991 Bill C-17 was passed, and although largely a token law, it represented a small victory for the Coalition and the several hundred groups and institutions that had endorsed it. The bill came into effect this year.

But there are still extensive gaps in the new law: many gun owners are not registered, provinces still have control over magazine capacity restrictions, and most military weapons remain unrestricted.

Still holes in new gun control law

However, Rathjen says she is optimistic the newly elected Liberal government will toughen existing laws on gun control.

"I think we have all the elements we need," said Rathjen. "We have strong supporters in government, and the public is even more in favour. Everything depends on how people participate."

Rathjen and Laplante-Edward say they have grown accustomed to gun lobbyists who call them emotional and reactionary despite the fact both anti-violence groups have expanded their membership beyond the bounds of the Montreal and university communities.

"Our position has been moderate. They're the ones who have been emotional," said Laplante-Edward. "They have this 'Don't touch my toys" attitude.'"

Gun owners provide a constant flow of arguments on how gun control achieves nothing. "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," is probably the lobby's most familiar stance.

The Coalition for Gun Control counters with dizzying statistics on how many more people are killed when guns are available. A good example comes from Hand Gun Control Inc.: 68 Canadians were killed by people wielding handguns in 1990, while 10,567 lost their lives by the same means in the control-free United States.

"I think we still have a chance in Canada," said Laplante-Edward. "To me the U.S., with their violence on TV and their proliferation of firearms, have gone beyond the point of no return."

Last month's Statistics Canada report on violence against women showed that 60 per cent of Canadian women don't feel comfortable walking alone after dark. The National Rifle Association says women should protect themselves by carrying handguns. But according to the New England Journal of Medicine, a loaded firearm in the house is six times more likely to cause an accidental death than to kill an intruder.

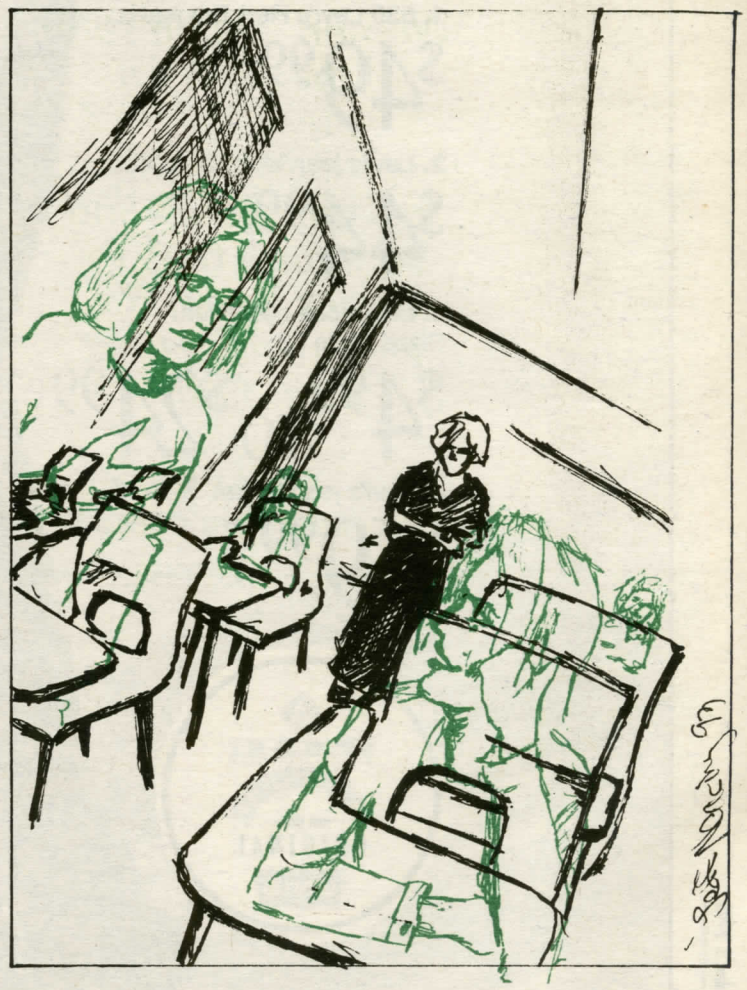
Now the Coalition and the December 6 foundation are working to ensure Bill C-17 is fully implemented and that the many gaping loopholes in the legislation are sewn up. Both organizations are pushing for new legislation which would include the registration of all firearms in Canada and the long-awaited ban on firearms.

In August 1992, the Concordia community got a tragic look at the big cracks in Canada's gun control regulations. Valery Fabrikant legally obtained a gun permit, despite the fact the university wrote a letter to the police expressing their concerns over his application. The professor went on to shoot five colleagues, killing four.

Concordia petition against handguns

Today, the university is one of the most vocal and active supporters of gun control. According to assistant vice-rector, Hugh Brodie, the university's petition to ban handguns has garnered 160,000 signatures, and the support of over 150 Canadian institutions. The petition will be presented to Ottawa next spring.

Says Brodie: "The gun lobby sounds shrill and whining when compared to the strong voice of Canadians who want gun control."



A commemorative concert, sponsored by the Fondation des victimes du 6 decembre contre la violence, will take place December 6 at 8 p.m. The Metropolitan Choir, of which Suzanne Laplante-Edward is a member, will sing Brahms' Requiem. The cost is $10.

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Skunkin' with the brothers Grim

by Anuska Garcia Klein

Any lateral motion when you're caught in a Foufounes dark and swarthy moshpit is a safe and natural thing to do... that is, when a band like **Grim Skunk** is on stage. If punk has an attitude, these guys are IT. -But here's the catch: they're NOT punk.

Try to compromise five different people from different musical backgrounds: a complete redefinition of fusion as we know it. The result: an immense wall flowering with different pungent blooms. Reggae, hardcore, baroque classical, improv jazz, Quebecois folk and ska are just a few.

Observing three of the Skunksters in their chaotic abode/ jamspace is like witnessing the idealization of *Robert's Rules* or *Order. Peter Edwards.*

The dreamy and pensive lead guitarist, Joe Burnett, the sullen, Hammond organ-pounding punk monk and the hyper drummer Alain "Ulf" Vadeboncoeur, quibble over drumming sequences, cymbals and chords. -But the *novos ordors grim skunkius* is the ruling order; where all decisions produce one unified sound.

"We don't play a kind of music, we just play it, that's all," says Joe, "We're really into sound reinforcement."

You better believe it. They're not only good and talented but LOUD! But as everyone knows, a skunk, that nifty little critter that rummages through your garbage and leaves a scent is anything but loud. So why the skunk —and why so grim?

"We really dig the skunk." says Joe.

The animal?

"No, mostly the weed..." he laughs.

Ahhh. That kind of skunk.

"That's right and we're called 'grim' because our music is negative hardcore."

"It's kinda like our way of being creepy, weird, spiritual..." says guitarist Peter Edwards.

They have been doing the creepy weird thing since 1988 around the Quebec circuit, across Canada with other bands, in the States, and last spring in France. They recently successfully slapped the Quebec music industry in the face by opening up for pop superstars **Niagara** at the Forum. Not a bad succession of events for people the age of the average Concordia Ugrad. Five years brought numerous experiences: Tons of road gore stories about cops busting their outdoor shows, playing in zero weather at 3 am after a day's rafting and generally putting up with attitude from the authorities everywhere for their relatively low-key but famous pro-hemp attitude.

But after 5 years, two releases and a strong accumulation of followers of both official languages, the Skunksters are tired of being independent. The upcoming vinyl seven-incher will hopefully be their last attempt at putting out their own product.

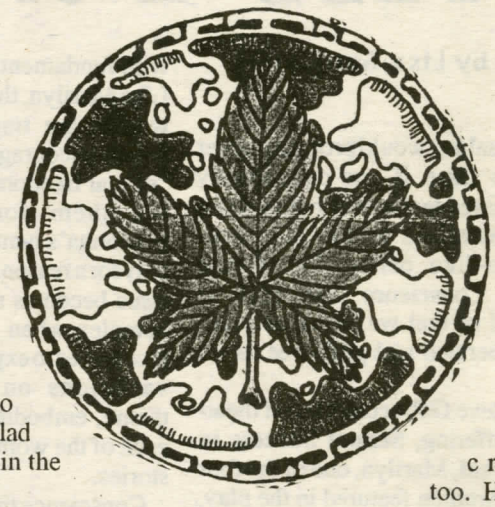
"We can't handle independence," says Peter, "We've done too much work for it. Now we've managed to pay for (last year's) *Exotic Blend* so right now we've have no hope in hell to manufacture, produce or record a new album. If we did it'd sound cheap."

"We did have a deal offered to us a long time ago," falters Peter, "But we didn't.. didn't.."

"*Follow* it," admits an already slouched Joe.

So five pairs of scrutinizing fine-tuned ears and inquisitive eyes keep following the recent trends in the music industry.

The nouveau grunge movement now dominates the market, so small grunge bands are making it 'cause they fit into the newly moulded "grunge" formula. -But it's all another mainstream music standard, and bands who don't fill the plaid-clad sound are still left in the dust.



"We just hope that a band that doesn't fit into an industry formula will pull it off. says, Peter, And he hopes that it will happen "Just because their fans like it." -not because they wear touques and plaid.

Their formula, by the way, or their latest rendition of it was recorded over at ex-**My Dog Popper** drummer Steve Kravacs studio. Mr. Kravacs is known to produce the lighter college underground pop - so their choice of producer might surprise a few.

"It's certainly not FM, as he would say. But he had a great time recording it. A total party. He's totally crazy too. He got us to play on amps so loud that the tubes were hummin'." says Peter.

Nevertheless, there leaves something to be desired in the recording itself. The usually thunderous drums are muffled and the keyboards, so resplendent and majestic in *Exotic Blend* , barely squeak behind the continental plate of guitars and screaming vocals.

Known for tight schedules, they'll go to Europe in February for an extensive tour pushing amps over eleven and busting P.A.'s in countries like France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. But before they do that, they'll do some pre-production work and practice for new songs that they'll perform on tour and record afterward at home.

Dec 9, with Toronto's Satanatras, Self-Control, 7$ at les Foufounes Electriques 87 Ste. Catherine East, 845-5484.

...Ya know those little sticker thingees?

by Jon Richler

Has this ever happened to you?

You're taking good 'ol public transit, and you step onto an escalator, or sit on a patented STCUM hemmerhoid-givin' plastic chair 'cause you're without reading material. -Which is a good thing for you, since all over the underground you can gaze at two-inch square stickers, each with a band name and graphic on it.

Who the fuck are these people? Who's the rich bastard that makes all these strickers!?!

I can be a temporary saviour here. I've taken the initiative to intercept two such bands who's names you've seen on bar walls and stairwells. **Slaves on dope & Pushing Up Daisies.** Let's get to know them, shall we?

Last week at Woodstock, Slaves on dope launched their first CD-EP, *sober.* The slaves, four guys who recently won the Vanier College Battle of the Bands, got 60 free hours of recording time. This they used wisely, to put *sober* on tape and CD.

Into their music 100%, they are also into marketing themselves with T-shirts, copies of their EP, and of course, those stickers...

Following their brush-off, two minute sound check, we chatted before they took the stage.

One thing that grabs my attention is the slaves EP packaging. Their logo is plainly typed on their stickers and shirts, but *sober* packs a disturbing cover.

"It sounds as good as it looks", replied **Lenny**, the drummer. On stage, he represents the 20-minute work out of rock'n roll.

"It represents the time we did it in," adds guitarist, **Kevin**. "It was fun. We never thought of doing it on CD, but it's great. We pushed and begged for it, and it sounds great."

Begged? Why should a band who obviously show's talent, (and have received positive press so far), have to beg?

Jason, the Dr. Frankenstien-like fusion of **Henry Rollins** and **Joe Singer**, informs me, "If you're on the outside of the "scene", it's very tough to get in. Montréal crowds are tough and finicky. You have to try to swim , and you're forced to accomodate the bigger bands. Sometimes you're pushed off a bill to make room for a local band that has made it "inside".

For the slaves, it's been a series of bad luck scenarios. Last Years' Fresh Fest was supposed to put out a CD, which never happened. The slaves wonder where the cash went from that. -But nothing seems to scar them. Yet *Sober* is laced with raw energy, and catchy tunes, like *Tearing the seams*, a bass-heavy wailer that deals with a violent emergence of a new personality. The slaves are not a band afraid to experiment with different sounds, as proven in *calmly*, where the speed

changes pace like a well-plotted soap opera.

Sober was produced by Richard Basque, of Uplift Records, in a mere 80 hours. An admirable job, but too bassy. The CD equalizes this problem, creating a crystallized recording from the DAT. Sampling is attempted, and works well sometimes, but not on *brass.*

The slaves have serious lyrics, but in person are quite vaudevillian. Jason hopes to sign with **Sugarhill Records**. I think this might have been easier achieved if they had been called "Stuffing Santa", which was his first choice.

Pushing Up Daisies

This band will suit your darker side. Slow paced rock signals the beginning of *Weeds*, their heavily circulated EP, which caters to the rock lovers' every whim by the end. In *Too Late*, **Shel**, the rapier-voice behind the lyrics that puncture your mind, writes from personal injury and experience. He blasts out angst and ideas in a pitch somewhere between **Ian Astbury** and **Cris Cornell**. Maybe that's why ex-**Cult** bassist **Jamie Stewart** took the job of production.

"Shel gets his frustrations out this way. We're not misogynist, just visual," explains guitarist **Mars**. "It's not good to get self-indulgent. Just write cool songs"

Shel gets his imagery across with some seriously violent metophors. With the 90's being censor-happy, where does the compromise fit?

"....You can't always be the nice guy. If you're too politically correct in your songs, you say what you don't feel. You lose your honesty."

That they don't. *69 Ways To Die* drives one into a wall of guitar, and *Strung Out* picks up the pieces, just to further boggle the senses. The final piece, *Icon God*, is a fine mix of 90's sample-mixes and angry guitar.

Lots of wa-wa guitar, two soloists, and piercing harmonies give the Daisies a sound that has little to do with flowers. The band has been together over three years, with some changes. They strive for a huge audience, and like the slaves, know it's up to them to make themselves heard.

"You have to have enough guts and integrity to push your product," states Mars, and it worked. Paul Levesque from the C.R. booking agency has taken interest, and he's with Artisté/BMG. He offered the band an interesting proposition, but as yet, they've not replied.

Whatever the decision, the group is worth checking out. Soon to have a gig at Woodstock, or Foufounes' Tuesday jam nite. The Slaves have several upcoming gigs at the Jaillhouse and Station 10. On the 4th, at Foufounes, they play with Atomic Folk and guests for $4. So satisfy yourselves...

Put a sound to a sticker!

Ass Pinching Anonymous

by Lisa Gorecki

Casual sex would probably never be the same if our occasionally suppressed feelings of regret about it materialized in the fairy-god-mother-like personified figure Guilty Conscience. She exists to remind us that we're not as sexually-liberated and guilt-free as we think.

In Steve Galluccio's latest theatrical offering, **Sexual Success in Montreal**, Marilyn, one of the four single women featured in the play, is involved in a relationship of sex for sex sake with a man she dubbs her "fuck friend." Marilyn (Janis Kirshner) inherits a shrill-voiced Guilty Conscience (Yayou) that real life conveniently spares us.

Deathly pale, very pregnant, and dolled up in a hoop-skirted wedding dress, Conscience reminds Marilyn of the unpleasant and sometimes fatal consequences frequently associated with casual sexual encounters.

If this isn't bad enough, Marilyn's personified conscience trots out the societal judgment that women who have sex because they enjoy it are "dirty" nymphomaniacs. This is true in the context of a Judeo-Christian culture that frowns upon the unprocreative pleasures of the flesh.

Sexual Success in Montreal deals with fundamental women's issues. Like Marilyn, the play's other three women are trapped in a society which encourages them to achieve "sexual freedom" while condemning them for exercising it. Madonna's name is evoked in this play for a reason. The issue becomes more complex when Galluccio tries to explore variations on the theme, embodied in each of the women's stories.

Conscience tips us off that "Sexual success can still spell disaster these progressive days." For instance, Judene (Laura Mitchell), a university English professor with a knack for bedding her male students, plays what she calls the student-seducing "game of the straight white man," which is "an age-honored tradition" at any university.

Her sexual prowess, which enables her to achieve orgasm first, has her proudly referring to herself as "a premature flow-er," beating even the swiftest of premature ejaculators to the finish line. Aware that in society's eyes she is a menace to the existing order of things, Judene's institutionalized "indiscretions" are punished in a way that threatens to shatter her academic career.

In contrast, Emily (Lane Middleton) is the self-professed "fag-hag" who falls for gay men. She has enrolled herself in a 12 step self-help program to check her fag hag-olism. Ironically, Emily is thrown out of the program for "sexually assaulting" her gay instructor. (Her passionate ass-pinching offence lands her in an Ass-pinching Anonymous class.) To ward off her "deviant" impulses, a sexually-prudish man is chosen for Emily to marry.

Brazil (Judy Rudd), the most seemingly sexually liberated of the group, wears her own dildo with manic surfer jocks who come back to stalk her after they realize that she doesn't put out twice for the same man. Another gender-reversal is being enacted here, but now it's the woman who refuses to commit herself to any one person who is being victimized.

While "sexual success" has its bitter side, it also smacks of sweetness when, near the end of the play, the four roommates put their setbacks behind them and even more forcefully embrace the conventionally "male" forms of self-empowerment associated with possession of the phallus.

They actively go out into the world either to discover what they really want, or to reclaim their sexual freedom. Sexual Success in Montreal is the Thelma and Louise of female sexuality-questing, only with a happier ending.

Happy endings are not foreign to the work of local comic playwright Galluccio, who has also authored Brady Bunch/The Hidden Episide, and Batman and Robin: The Untold Story.

The uniformly excellent comedic performances by the play's actresses make this a thoroughly entertaining evening of theatre. Galluccio's brand of humour is trenchant enough to keep his serious subject matter from becoming trivialized. As co-director Lynne Kam explains: "Through comedy, we hope to offend many men without them realizing it."

The play's strong language and pointed criticisms of sexual double standards may prove objectionable to some. However, the play's clever dialogue, with its wealth of cultural in-jokes accessible to most, will easily keep attention spans snagged for the full duration of the performance.

One possible shortcoming of the play might be Galluccio's apparent belief that it is a woman's psychological appropriation of the phallus (symbolized in the play by her toting of a dildo) that endows her with sexual confidence and independance. Perhaps the play could have scrutinized its own ideological assumptions more, and questioned whether more authentically female forms of sexual fulfillment could not also have existed alongside the conventionally male ones.

Sexual Success in Montreal runs from Dec. 3rd to Dec. 11th at 4001 Berri. Tickets are $7.00. For more info call: 277-3829.

Shakespeare with a twist

by Jeff Nearing

Whether you know it or not, Concordia is home to a thriving and energetic theater department that is soon to produce their first big production of the year. *Good night Desdemona, Good Morning Juliette* is the award winning play written by Anne Marie McDonald. Author of Montreal-based play *Anton* Harry Standjofsky directs.

The play focusses on a female university prof who proposes the theory that *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliette* were actually comedies that were transformed into tragedies from their folklore roots. In a strange dream-like sequence that dominates the play, the prof. Constance Leadbelly, played by Tamara McKay, enters into the dramatic worlds of these plays and meets their leading women.

These two women were not chosen randomly. Each of them represents a facet of Constance's personality that needs to be developed. Desdemona, unlike her portrayal as the victimized wife in *Othello*, is an empowered and assertive woman that leads Constance to new levels of self-esteem and courage.

She is also heavily influenced by Juliette's mastery of her sexuality, and her assuredness in her relationships.

This play presents quite a number of challenges to this student cast, who are able to handle the Shakespearean characters deftly. Unfortunately, their training in Elizabethan acting is strained by the fact that Constance talks exclusively in modern day English, that incorporates our pronunciations and colloquialisms. The energy produced by the actors is gripping, and is part and parcel of the attention and enthusiasm of Standjofsky and of stage manager Harry Annett.

The play opens next Thursday, December 10th at the theatre in the Hall Building.

Photo by Ita Kendall

Niki Landau, above, plays Bawd in a Concordia Theatre department production of Pericles, Prince of Tyre. Landau is just one in a large cast of creatively costumed and enthusiastic theatre students in a story they describe as "both primitive and contemporary". You can catch this production at the Cazalet Studio (in the F.C. Smith building) at Loyola starting tonight and continuing through Sunday.

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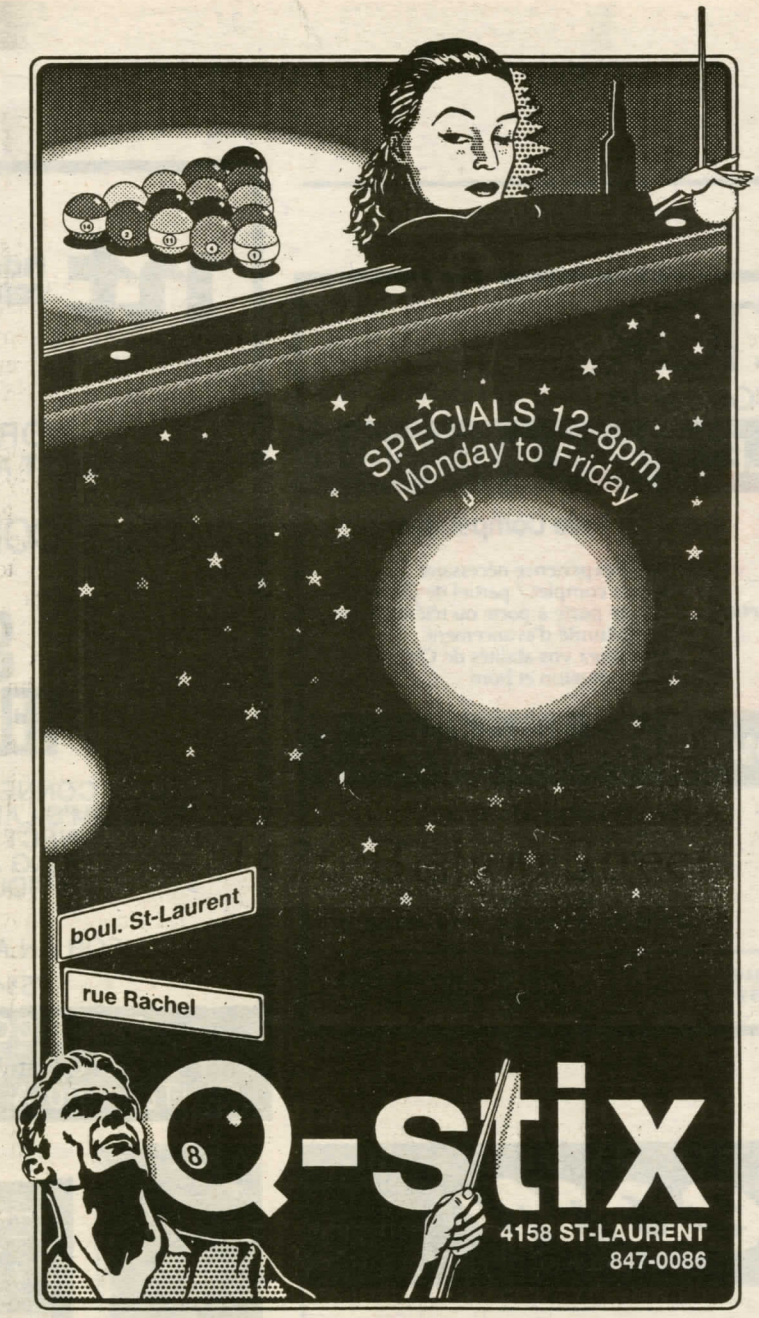

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WOMEN - cont'd from pg. 2

The Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Each course provides verbal and physical techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Info: 284-1212. For Information on courses on campus, call the Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Shakti is a Women of Colour Collective embodying a Womanist direction. We are anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-classist and lesbian & bi-positive. All women of colour are invited to participate. Leave a message at 398-7432.

Résidence Project Chance. Residential program for single moms on loans and bursaries or welfare. Call Susan Cross, 934-6199.

Volunteers needed at the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre to staff the telephone crisis line. Please call 934-4504 or 934-0354, extension 229.

Lesbian Mothers support group, call Deborah, 274-8995 or listen to Dykes on Mikes, Mondays, 7 pm, CKUT, 90.3 FM.

The office of The Status of Women invites all Concordia women to come and eat their lunch in a relaxed atmosphere every Wed. at noon in Rm. 103, 2150 Bishop. Info: 848-4841.

The Women's Studies Students' Association has been resurrected. Help us become a force on campus. Tuesdays, 8 pm, basement, 2130 Bishop.

Feminist womyn's creative writing group, open to new members, meets every other Monday at the Concordia Women's Centre. Info: Dana, 521-8480.

"Acoustica," a festival for new Canadian female singer/songwriters, needs submissions and volunteers. Info: Hanna, 849-3791.

The Legal Information Clinic at the "Y" now offers private counselling session to inform women of their rights and guide them through legal proceedings (divorce, wills, immigration, discrimination, employment relations etc.). By Appointment only. $5/ 30 minutes. Info: 866-9941.

Women's Employment Counselling at the "Y" helps women to seek employment, return to work or explore their interests and aptitudes. Eng. & Fr. Free. Info: 866-9941.

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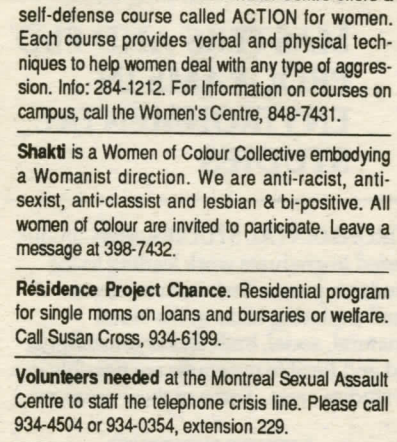

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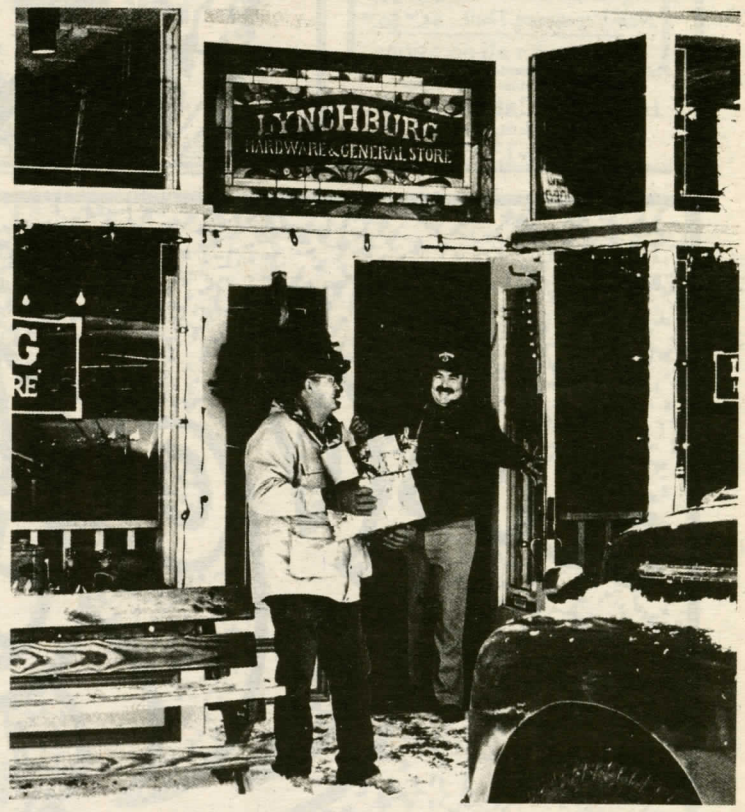

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NYC Noise ain't just from the cabbies :CMJ music fest

by Gary Worsley

A few weeks back College Media Inc., an organization that primarily puts out a weekly glossy continental college music industry mag held their annual music marathon, better known as the CMJ, in New York City. The music conference ran through November 3rd to the 6th, with close to one hundred bands bands performing each night.

The first day our included performances by Johnboy, Slug, God Bullies, French punk band **Les Thugs, God & Texas and Ed Hall. Arriving at** the club, we found a very noisy **Johnboy** from Austin Texas. They sounded like a much less polished NYC heavy weight **Helmet**, if you will. The two songs we saw were good enough to fork out three bucks for their seven-inch.

Next up was LA's **Slug** whom we were anticipating to be one of the highlights of the week. Yikes ! Slug rocked. A thousand times more lovely than you could ever believe —and just as noisy. Slug treated the crowd to a splendid array of singles as well as their now impossible-to-find *Sympathy For the Industry* ten-inch ep.

Day Two: We worked our way down to CMJ headquarters, at the Waldorf Astoria. Residence of the President of the U.S. of A. Aside from offering an incredible assortment of live shows, CMJ also offered informative seminars. These lectures included subjects such as: The F Word: Women. Music. Activism, Has Rock Music Become Sex Education for the 90's, Artist Development Through Music Video and loads more.

Photo by Andrew Elkin

-Jon Spencer

On this particular afternoon we went to check out ex-Dead Kennedy's frontman **Jello Biafra**, to give his Key Note Address for a College Radio Workshop seminar. The legendary punk was suppose to speak about censorship's place in music, but instead he went on in great lengths, tackling such issues as American values, and the decriminalization of drugs He also spoke about music in the 90's, claiming that **Ministry**'s *Land of Rape and Honey*, 1989, was the last decent recording released on a major label.

In the evening, we went to CBGB's to check out the Blues Explosion, with some time beforehand to hang out with **Julia Cafritz** of **Pussy Galore, Action Swingers, Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore, Dinosaur Jr's J Mascis,** Boss Hog's **Christina** and **Hollis Queens**, and **Jon Spencer.** -Wow!

The **Jon Spencer Blues Explosion** took to the stage and blew through a set of down and dirty bluesy punk-rock. The show was pretty much spliced up between lp's, Extra Width and *Crypt Style*. Most memorable song's included Bent, *Rachel, Soul Typecast* and some smoking new shit. -Forget about **Christopher Walken**, because Jon Spencer is the real king of New York. They are truly a magical live band.

Day Three: A film. **Beyond 3-D** was a ten minute film featuring snowboarding, skateboarding, surfing and rock climbing along with music and performance by dig. The film was excellent, very slick, and an interesting way of promoting a new band.

In the evening; **Codiene**. As expected, they put on a beautiful performance. The very sedate set by the New York based trio included selections from their Sub Pop debuts Frigid Stars , *Barely Real,* and their most recent 7" Tom. -very impressive. Speaking with Codeine's Stephen Immerwahr following the show, we learned the band would be performing in Montreal four day's after our arrival.

Down to Brownies, to check out Green Magnet School. Inside the very small, half-filled club people cluttered around the stage. All of a sudden the band broke into *Barmecide Room*, from their release Blood Music. All of a sudden the room was surrounded with guitar fuckery like you would not believe. Three guitarists intertwining some of the most twisted distortion their stringed beasts were capable of. Their follow-up song was a brand new one that was just excellent. The Boston five-piece did not allow things to slow down for a single second, until they abruptly ended.

Photo by Sean O'Hara

The Wives

The only problem with **Green Magnet School** was that their set was under 40 minutes in length. This was the biggest problem with the musical side of the CMJ -But well expected with 350 bands playing over the course of four days. Upon speaking with the Magnets, following their stellar performance, the band confirmed that they have not been dropped by SubPop, and explained that the label just hasn't been interested in releasing the band's latest efforts.

2am: Realizing that our ears could still withstand some more abuse, we walked down to St.Marks Place to the Continental to check out a sparsely attended 3am set by the Wives.

The band turned out to be excellent. They played a very cool set, which was far more on hardcore than grunge. To be completely honest, I would have to say that the Wives are the best all female band that I have ever seen, they absolutely blew me away.

Day Four: The Boredoms, from Japan, were playing just blocks away from our 49th street hotel at the Academy. Unfortunately, we only got to see about twenty minutes of the band's musical madness. Later, **Sleep literally started destroying people's hearing. Ear plugs or not, these guys were the loudest band I've seen since the Unsane's performance at Foufounes a couple of years back. This power trio put on an incredible set.** They used their time to complete potential, going from track to track without wasting time. The band had the stage presence and in-your-face sound that reminded me a lot of **Ministry**'s *The Mind Is a Terrible Thing to Taste* tour and, for that matter, long since forgotten **Motorhead** performances. I had not heard these guys on record, but I had heard that they were a complete **Sabbath** rip-off. This, by the way, is not a problem with me I do not see anything wrong with acknowledging the fact that the world's greatest band influenced you. There was a time when I claimed to hate Earache or grindcore in general, yet I have learned to love **Godflesh, Cathedral, Pitchshifter** and now, **Sleep.**

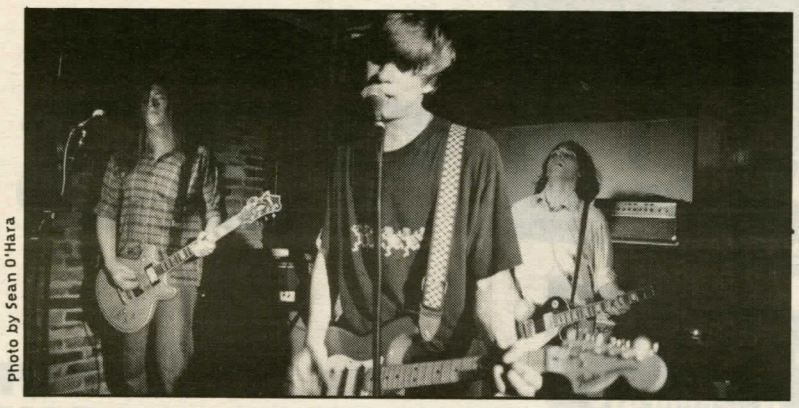

Photo by Sean O'Hara

Green Magnet School

After hanging outside the club, waiting for a really terrible band called **LeapFrog** to finish, we went in to check out TAANG! recording artists **Spore.** I had just received the band's *Fear God EP* and really enjoyed it. I expected this band to come off something like **Green Magnet School** or the **Tulips** live, but something went wrong, because these guys were horrible. Wait— it was a little more centered than that. Their rhythm guitarist/backup vocalist was so drunk, off-time and stupid that she completely ruined what could have been a great show. It's unfortunate because they are a good band and on this particular evening øthe bassist/vocalist and drummer were incredible. Following this disastrous performance, our ears were too sore from Spore to damage them any further.

The CMJ Music Marathon is undeniably an essential experience in music, whether you are part of the industry itself, in a band looking for exposure, or just a fan.

For more information regarding the CMJ Music Marathon, you can write to: CMJ Music Marathon, 11 Middle *Neck road, Suite 400, Great Neck, New York 11021.*

Photo by Sean O'Hara

ex Dead Kennedy's Punker Jello Biafra

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Piments verts	6.25	9.25	11.50	14.50	Green Peppers
Toute Garnie Pepperoni, champignons, piments verts	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	All Dressed Pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers
Anchois	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Anchovies
Viande fumée	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Smoked Meat
Saucisses italiennes	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Italian Sausages
Viande hachée	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Minced Meat
Bacon	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Bacon
Jambon et ananas	6.95	9.95	12.75	15.75	Ham and Pineapple
Végétarienne Coeurs d'artichauts, asperges, champignons, piments verts et olives	7.95	11.25	14.25	17.25	Vegetarian Artichoke Hearts, Asparagus, Mushrooms, Green Peppers and Olives
Spéciale "Angela" Bacon, oignons, tomates, piments verts, champignons et pepperoni	7.95	11.25	14.25	17.25	"Angela" Special Bacon, Onions, Tomatoes, Green Peppers, Mushrooms and Pepperoni
Garniture extra	1.50	2.00	2.50	3.00	Extra Dressing

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SPINS SPINS SPINS

Hey Fringe freaks! It's that time of year again! Throw cash away on yourself and your loved ones! Do it the music way! Nothing better than something to listen to while you're stuffin' your face with holiday food....

The following spins are rated for your convenience, so pay close attention! Have a happy politically correct holiday season!

••••• The best you can do. The receiver will scream your name in the streets in affectionate tones.

•••• Hey, it's pretty good. You'll love it for at least 3 months, then move on.

••• Not bad- kinda reminds you of the first Batman movie. Has the same staying power, but not the same merchandising power.

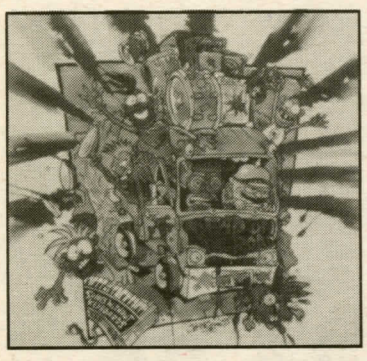
•• You wasted your money on this, you probably liked the show.."The Family Dog".

• Use this instead of coal for the stocking.

The Spinanes
Manos
SubPop/Cargo
by Anuska Garcia Klein

A touch gentler than your average riot girl band, singer/guitarist Rebecca Gates and fellow drummer Scott Plouf form an amazingly simple album that tantalizes the sensitivities of more jaded listeners. No fluff here or trademark Seattle Subpop sounds. The label has made it clear that they are branching out into different kinds of rock beyond **Soundgarden** and **Mudhoney**, and this is the latest example of such a noble orientation.

The sound is a cross between early **Pixies** and late **Buffalo Tom**, and even Gates' voice sounds kinda like **Pixies**' late bassist and present **Breeder** Kim Deal. The music is a pleasant blend of guitar fuzz and danceble riffs and beats. No frills on Gates voice either. The release is refreshingly clear of overdubs and distortions. Title track *Manos* ,meaning "hands" in Spanish, claps to a twirl of phlanger melodies and polyrhythmic tempos. ••••



Various Artists
Dead on the Road; Songs without keyboards
Raw Energy/ A&M
by Anuska Garcia Klein

A very commendable and hysterically funny road gore release from 27 of Canada's finest punk bands. The CD starts off with a sample of Mr. Rogers' nasal overtones about having a 'really angry song' and then launches into an abrasive piece by Nanaimo, BC's **Ninth Hour**. TO's **Armed and Hammered** brand of Brit punk-ish rock is followed by fast'n'steady crushers delivered by memorable punk outfits **Spigots**, Edmonton's **Glorystompers**, and Montreal's legendary **Ripcordz**. There are surprising breaks of non-punk music like the hilarious Victoria, BC's **Vinegrettes**. They make **Cowboy Junkies** look like **Alabama**. Among these tunes many of Montreal's own are found. Skardcore **Blood Sausage** delivers *Mommy's Gonna Pay*, and **Northern Vultures** break into *Dead Easy*. St. John's **Potbelly** defies the Halifax explosion with a track worthy of putting the grunge scene to crying shame. Songs without keyboards indeed, they certainly don't need 'em. Great cover artwork by TO's *Exclaim* Mag's John Grove •••••

A JOHN PRINE CHRISTMAS
John Prine
by Chris Leentjes

I have not had a worse aural experience since I playes that **Julio Iglesias** record backward looking for messages from the Devil. This album embodies what Christmas should not be: a lot of slide guitars and twanging accompanied by **Dylan**-esque rambling vocals. If this represents Christmas, I'm moving to East Yemen ASAP.

Only two songs are recognizable "authentic" Christmas songs - *Silver Bells*, and *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*, both done country style; the rest being his own pseudo-Christmas songs. Yo Billy Bob, John Prine's Christmas album is country and western, ya hear.

Prine chants and twangs away on the songs, with the occasional narrative explaining why he loves the season so much, plus other childhood.nausea. He even shares with us the joy he felt when he got his first guitar, a moment I see as a key factor in the decline of modern society.

The only redeeming quality of the album is that Prine advocates helping the less fortunate at Christmas. Thanks, John. In fact, I shall spread the joy around by giving out copies of your cassette to the poor in my neighbourhood.

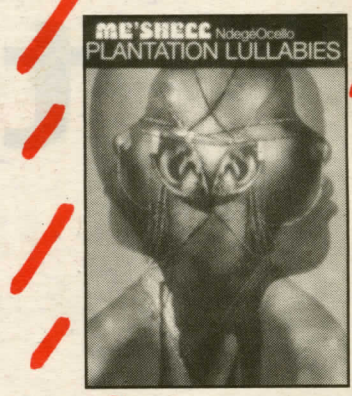
To be honest, I hated it. A lot. I would not wish this album on my worst enemy. Christmas with John Prine and Dr. Kevorkian are somewhat akin, one representing a much slower and painful death than the other. •

A TRIBE CALLED QUEST
Midnight Marauders
BMG/Jive
by Jon Richler

It's been a good month. Record three brings **Q-tip**,**Sha**, and **Phife** to the rap haven. Like **De La Soul** once said, three is the magic number. It lets the consumer know that the group has enough diversity and flexible talent to survive in the short attention span 1990's. This album flows smoother than a greasy pizza down a drunken throat.

"Seven times out of ten, we listen to our music at night. Thus spawned the title of this program. The word maraud means to loot. In this case, we maraud for ears." This is one of the vocal breaks a computer-like female voice (**Laurel Dann**) hits you with in between songs.

The music? Jazzy bass & lounge music over old-school scratchin', and the high-end snare. Busta rhymes is back again, and other spot-verses are dropped by guests. Important topics are thrown at you over the jazz nirvana. *Sucka Nigga* shows what racism and the danger of stereotypes can do to a 'hood. *we can Get Down* is prime MC stylin', and Clap your Hands soars. Special respect to Phife for abusing Barney the dinosaur. PROPER! ••••



ME'SHELL Ndegé Ocello
Plantation Lullabies
Sire Warner
by Khoba Sysavane

ME'SHELL'S debut album, **Plantation Lullabies,** is a well orchestrated fusion of jazz, rap, hip hop, funk, and soul. The music acts as a flavourful background for heavy lyrics that encourage the listener to concentrate on every precious word. Each song is like a stolen page out of a secret diary. Frank and observant, ME'SHELL's stories stem from a very personal point of view The message in the music appeals to all people who want to listen. The subjects on the album touch upon the plight of the black man, lust, the African identity, the inner city, and sex and drugs. All the songs are interlaced with a deep passion for what she is singing. You can't help but feel sexy when listening to this album

ME'SHELL Ndegé Ocello is a musical genius. She has already made waves by creating fresh new vibes on the acid jazz scene. This musical treasure is highly recommended to complete any record collection. •••••

ME'SHELL's band played at Metropolis' subclub, the Savoy, last Saturday night.

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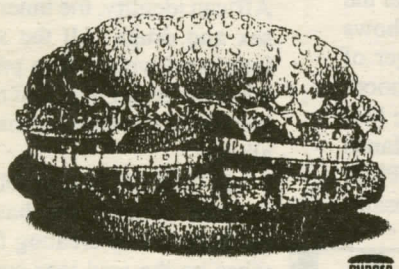

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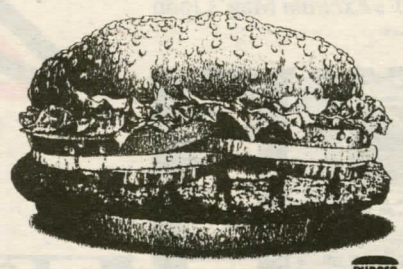

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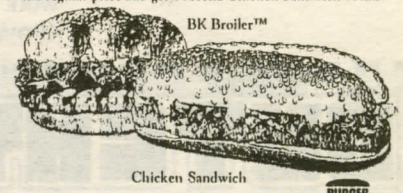

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Stingers still busy over the holidays

by *Link* Sports staff

We may all be cramming for exams and stuffing our faces with turkey over the next month but our Stingers varsity teams will be out on the court, at the rink, or on the mats playing for Concordia.

The Stingers women's basketball team is second in the Quebec Students Sports Federation with a 1-1 record and are 8-5 overall. The team visits Laval University tonight and will play a tournament in St. Catherines, Ontario on the 29 and 30 of this month.

The men's basketball team will continue their quest for another league championship tonight at Laval University and will also play at Wesmen Classic in Winnipeg on December 29 and 30. The Stingers are 6-5 overall and their 2-0 record is good for first in the league.

The women's hockey team continues its successful season by finishing off the semester with back-to-back home games this weekend. The Stingers will host the St. Laurent Patriotes tonight at the Loyola Rink and game time is at 7 p.m. Sunday will have the Patriotes from Trois-Rivières facing off against the Stingers. The puck drops at 12:30 p.m. for that one. Center Laura Leslie and goaltender Marie-Claude Roy have received invitations to attend the Canadian national women's hockey team training camp which will be held in Kitchener, Ont. from January 24 until the 30th.

The Stingers are first in the league with a 6-0 record and 12-1-4 overall.

The men's hockey team are in last place in the east division of the OUAA despite their respectable 6-3-1 record (11-8-1 overall). Tonight it's Concordia at UQTR at 7:30 and the Stingers will host the Concordia Invitational Tournament on December 29 and 30 at Loyola.

The volleyball teams are struggling to rack up some wins, but to their credit they are providing tough opposition and are saddled with playing in one of the country's toughest leagues. Expect to see them tomorrow afternoon at McGill. After the holidays they'll be at Laval University on January 7.

The Concordia wrestling team has done very well this semester, finishing fifth at the Concordia Invitational Tournament last month.

The wrestling team will be travelling to New York City on December 18 to compete against American universities. The event is hosted by the New York Athletic Club.

They'll be back in town on the 8th of January for the Montreal Senior Open and will head west to Kingston, Ont. for the Queen's University Invitational on January 15.

Holiday sports calendar

Volleyball
Concordia at McGill, Saturday Dec. 4, 1 p.m.
Concordia at Laval, Friday Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
New York Athletic Club Tournament, Saturday Dec. 18
Montreal Senior Open, Saturday January 8
Queen's Invitational, Saturday January 15

Women's Hockey
St. Laurent at Concordia, Friday Dec. 3, 7 p.m.
UQTR at Concordia, Sunday Dec. 5, 12:30 p.m.
Concordia at St. Laurent, Friday January 7, 7:15 p.m.

Men's Hockey
Concordia at UQTR, Friday December 3, 7:30 p.m.
The Stingers will be hosting the Concordia Tournament December 29 and 30.

Women's Basketball
Concordia at Laval, Friday Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.
The Stingers will be at St. Catherines, Ont. for a tournament on December 29 and 30.

Men's Basketball
Concordia at Laval, Friday Dec. 3, 8:30 p.m.
The Stingers will be at the Wesmen Classic in Winnipeg on December 28, 29, and 30.

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